PRIMARY STORY WORSHIP PROGRAMS

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PRIMARY STORY WORSHIP PROGRAMS

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"OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN"

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PRIMARY STORY WORSHIP PROGRAMS

BY

MARY KIRKPATRICK BERG

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PRIMARY STORY WORSHIP PROGRAMS
— A —
PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to the memory of my Aunt

AMELIA POMP BERG

TEACHER AND LOVER OF LITTLE CHILDREN

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PRIMARY STORY WORSHIP PROGRAMS

PRIMARY STORY WORSHIP PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

These primary worship programs have come through actual experience in working with children. They are now presented in book form with the following explanations and suggestions for their use and with the earnest hope that they may be helpful and suggestive to other primary workers.

I: THE THEMES CHOSEN

Four related themes with one general theme are given for each month from October to June.

The themes are seasonal in character and are designed to follow the child's church school year. Thus in October comes the thought of the child in God's House, as he returns from vacation and his new school year begins.

In November emphasis is given to praise and thanksgiving climaxing with the story of Thanksgiving Day itself.

In December, the thoughts centre naturally around giving and receiving, thus in the December programs, the child is led to think of and for others. God's greatest and best gift to the world will climax the programs for this month in a beautiful way.

For January, the child's thoughts are directed to the Heavenly Father and His children. He is led to feel himself God's child who needs never fear since the

Heavenly Father's care is always about him. The final thought for the month is that he may have a part in helping the Heavenly Father care for His children.

In February, a patriotic emphasis is given, the thoughts centering on how to be true to one's country and flag while "The Flag of God's Kingdom" is made the climax for the month.

During March when all churches of all denominations are learning more and more to observe the Lenten season —the theme "Jesus the children's Friend" seems most appropriate. In these programs, the children themselves can tell the stories, stories *about* Jesus that they have learned through the year. This month will climax in the Palm Sunday program and lead naturally into the April Programs, which will stress the joy and beauty of Springtime and the coming of new life. The Easter program will be given its rightful place in April. or in *March* should Easter come at that time.

In May, the children's thoughts are centered on their homes beginning with a "father and mother day" program and leading to the thought of what the children themselves may do to help make their homes happy places to live in. This will all naturally lead to the thought of children in *other* homes, and the June programs stress how we may help children living in other homes and climax with the thought of the *world* children for Jesus.

II: THE PLACE OF WORSHIP IN THE SUNDAY PROGRAM

These worship programs may be preceded or followed by a drill or hand work period, but should always be used before the lesson taught in class by the teacher. It will be found that to use them as planned, each program will take at least twenty minutes. If less time than this is allowed for worship the superintendent should shorten the programs, through careful elimination. A rule that should invariably be followed is: never hurry a program. Undertake no more than can be done in the allotted time.

III: MUSIC

Children are entitled to the best that is possible. Some young woman in the community who can play well, can put her talent to no higher use than as the pianist for the Primary Department. Not that she may make the occasion a time for a display of her talent; but that the simple musical selections chosen may be played *well.*

The writer has in mind, however, many churches where musical talent is limited, and where the Primary Department may be last on the list to be supplied with a pianist. To all such superintendents who must face this problem, it is urged that the one who shall play the hymns, be given the list beforehand, for practise, so that there may be correct and careful playing for the worship period.

Children will always be found responsive to good music well played and will reward all efforts in their behalf by their own efforts in song.

The hymns chosen are from the denominational church hymnal; "Songs for Little People" by Danielson and Conant; and a "First Book in Hymns and Worship" by Thomas. These three books will be found invaluable and indispensable in building a program. If other hymns are preferred rather than the ones suggested they may always *be substituted provided they do not change the theme of the worship.*

IV: PICTURES

Here, again, children are entitled to the best. But good pictures need not necessarily be expensive. They may very often be secured from magazines, as the flag pictures for the February programs from the Ladies' Home Journal. Reproductions of the masterpieces large enough for use may be secured from the Perry Picture Company, Malden, Massachusetts, at ten cents each for five or more pictures (catalogue on request, fifteen cents). But all pictures shown should be trimmed and carefully

mounted before use that they may be as beautiful as possible for the children.

Such pictures as the "Sistine Madonna," "The Child Samuel at Prayer," "The Angelus" and LeRolles' "Arrival of the Shepherds" will be required and can all be secured from this source. But here a word of caution is necessary. Choose *no* picture not large enough to be seen by *all* the children at one time unless the Department be small enough for the picture to be passed to each child. Small individual pictures may sometimes be passed to be mounted and carried home by the children later. But on the whole, it is a safe rule to follow, use only pictures large enough to be seen by all the children at one time. Children are eager to see. Their interest is keen, and a picture always arouses it. Not to be able to see it clearly, because too far away, or because the picture is too small and full of detail, is a great aggravation, and may spoil the whole program for the child. To repeat, therefore, better *no picture, than one too small to be seen by all the children at one time.*

V: THE OFFERING

The offering should play an important part in every program and should always be made an act of worship. In return for God's many gifts to him, the child brings his gift to God for others.

The objects for giving should be meaningful and interesting to the children and correlate closely with the program.

A Thanksgiving basket of "Good Gifts" in November for some needy family; the bringing of toys and money at the Christmas season; gifts of money for God's children in January; money to buy flowers to make God's House beautiful and for the sick children in hospitals at Easter time, scrap books made for children in homes far away. All these

are but suggestions, that will lend themselves to any program.

If birthdays are remembered, let the extra gifts brought be used to make some of God's children happy somewhere. In all cases, let the children choose the objects for which they will give. Tactful suggestions may be given, stories told, then the question, "Would you like to do this?" will invariably be followed by eager acquiescence.

VI: PRAYER-TALKING WITH GOD

Prayer, i.e. talking with God, may be considered under five heads.

1. *Prayer Songs*

Prayer songs have a very definite place in the worship program. Such songs as "Father We Thank Thee for the Night," "Father in Heaven Bless Thy Little Children," "Lord of the Sunlight," "Jesus from Thy Throne on High" (Episcopal Hymnal) and many others will be found most helpful, especially in the opening of the Worship Period. In all Prayer Songs, it is best to look carefully at the words. It may be well to bear in mind that references to "*little* children" will not always be welcomed by the third grade boys and girls who indeed are often of Junior age before promotion time comes. The phrase "little children" may be changed to "loving children" or "happy children" and so meet the needs of each grade.

2. *Sentence Prayers*

These are formulated by the superintendent and often are needed to close the Worship Period, emphasising in a few brief words the truth that has been taught through pictures or story.

3. *Formal Prayers*

These prayers will be repeated by the children after the superintendent. Later, after the prayer has become familiar, all may repeat it together.

The superintendent will very often use this form of prayer, carefully choosing her words to meet the children's needs and emphasising the theme of the Worship Period. Prayers of this type should be very simple, meaningful to the children, and always meet the needs of their daily life.

4. *Prayers formulated by the children themselves*

A very valuable form of prayer is that which gathers up the children's own desires and petitions.

Seasonal joys are very real to the children. They are happy to express their pleasure and thanks and their responses will be very real for care, for home, for food, and their fathers and mothers, and all home relationships.

Their sympathy and interest will also be aroused in the bringing of their gifts for others and a prayer formulated on the basis of these interests will be very real.

A case in point is recalled where the sending of flowers to some sick children in a hospital was accompanied by the petition "that they get well, and go back home very soon." It must always be remembered, however, that the background of children of this age is very limited, and their desires and petitions will be and should be (if sincerely expressed) entirely guided by it.

For this reason, this form of prayer should not be used too frequently; lest, the responses become stereotyped in character.

The superintendent who each Sunday asks the children what they would like to thank the Heavenly Father for, will in time necessarily receive the same replies as, "Our food," "Our homes," etc.; or, "What shall we ask the Heavenly Father to do for us?" "Make us good," the

one stereotyped reply of childhood so sure to meet with adult approval.

A wise leader will sense the times and seasons most appropriate for *real* responses, and utilize them as the form of prayer most valuable of all.

5. *Silent Prayer*

As Miss Colson has expressed it, "Shall we *think* our prayer?" Children need to learn that the silent words of the heart are heard by the Heavenly Father just as truly as the spoken ones. After appropriate conversation the leader may sometimes suggest that we each thank the Heavenly Father by "*thinking* our prayer." The quiet moment may prove very helpful, but here again the superintendent will be guided by the attitude of the children, and their response. To suggest that we "think our prayer" if there be an apparent restlessness or inattention on the part of even two or three would be but to invite defeat.

VII: THE STORY

The story is most frequently used as the climax for the Worship Period. In this story is contained the truth around which the whole program has been formed. The well-told story always makes an appeal all its own to children. So much has been written and is known concerning the art of story-telling it need not be repeated here.

But a few words are necessary concerning the stories used in these programs. First, they need to be *told,* not *read* to the children. In no other way can the truth be brought home.

Second, stories will sometimes need to be adapted to fit local conditions, as in the case of October program No. 1: "Robert in the Church School." If the superintendent has other or better aims for her children than

those planned in this story, she should by all means substitute them.

Sometimes an entirely different story yet one stressing the same truth may be substituted in place of the one given. The source for stories is both rich and abundant. The superintendent will always make use of this source as her own good judgment shall dictate.

Opportunity should be given from time to time for the retelling of stories by the children themselves. While some children will be found with talent for this and therefore respond willingly, this expression should by no means be confined to the one or two who "do so well." Ability comes with practise. If a child seems shy at first in coming to the front and facing the Department, let him stand in his place, by his teacher, and tell the story. Encourage each effort, especially if poor at first, and reward will come. In all cases the story should be first retold by the child to the teacher, to see he has all incidents in their proper order. The words and manner of telling, however, should be his own. Sometimes even when a story has been told to the teacher beforehand, the final telling will be surprising, in children with vivid imaginations. A seven-year-old boy on telling the Easter story before the Department announced that "Mary was weeping and crying all over the place when she saw Jesus," then quickly changed to "Mary was laughing and crying at the same time"—when neither sentence had been used in telling the story to his teacher. He, however, acted only as an imaginative and unconscious child might be expected to do on occasions.

Be it said, however, that no amusement was expressed by any in the Department, so beautifully earnest and unconscious was the effort.

Superintendent, encourage your children to retell the stories.

VIII: AIDS TO WORSHIP

1. *Preparedness*

(a) The Superintendent.

These worship programs would fail in their object did they suggest to any superintendent that her work has all been done for her, and no preparation on her part is necessary, that all that is necessary will be to open the book on Sunday, and follow the program prepared. Failure alone can result, if so used.

The program should become the leader's *own.* This can only be done by careful study beforehand. Changes to fit local conditions should be made, hymns or stories if to be substituted, chosen in advance, the story *learned* for telling, and the whole program so completely her own, that only an occasional glance at the open book will be necessary on Sunday, *none* while telling the story.

Furthermore, all needed materials should be close at hand for use at the moment needed. The superintendent who finds she has left her picture at home, that the hymn book is missing as she turns to use it, or that the material she was so sure was in her table drawer has been "taken away" can never lead her children in worship.

A hasty search for hymn books, or other needed materials will prove diverting to the children but defeat the thought of worship at the outset.

(b) The Children.

The Worship Period is not a time for the learning of hymns or scripture. That should all be done at another period. It *is* a time for expression on the part of the children through the use of hymns, scripture and prayers, familiar and meaningful to them. Let the superintendent plan carefully in advance, so that the material used shall be already learned and familiar, while new material presented will be perfectly understood, without elaborate explanations on her part.

2. Beauty and Order

To make the surroundings of the children as worshipful as circumstances permit, should be the superintendent's first thought. Disorderly surroundings will make disorderly children. To find the room in confusion, chairs pushed everywhere, the piano and table littered with lesson leaves and old hymn books—what adult would be expected to worship amid such surroundings? Yet too often children find just such conditions—and are expected to join in worshipping their Heavenly Father—who "hath made everything beautiful."

Therefore let order be the superintendent's first law, as it is Heaven's—and let the room, or place assigned to these children, express beauty and order. A few well chosen pictures, hung low—a burlap board for additional pictures, posters, or handwork—a vase of flowers, or potted plant on the table, windows that will admit of sunshine and cheer—all these accessories will help to create a worshipful *atmosphere* and aid the children in their thinking of God's world and the love of the Heavenly Father, who hath made *all* things beautiful for them.

3. Promptness in Beginning

A most vital factor for all real worship is that the program begins *on time.* With no feeling of hurry, the superintendent should be in her place, prepared, as the time for worship arrives. If this time has been preceded by a drill or handwork period, all such should cease promptly and materials be put away. The pianist sounds a few soft chords and the "quiet music" is played. The superintendent rises in her place, and all is in readiness.

Let the doors be closed for the first few moments, and all late comers kept outside. The late ones may be admitted after the first hymn or prayer, but it is best to keep all such in seats reserved in the rear, that as little disturbance be made as possible. *On no account* should

church officials be admitted to hold whispered conversations with any one during this worship time.

All such quiet preparation will give that subtle thing we call "atmosphere." Children are quick to respond to the quiet, reverent attitude of their superintendent and teachers. This reverent atmosphere will help them sense the thought, "We are here with our Heavenly Father in His House. The time has come when we may talk with Him, who loves us and is always with us," and the children and their teachers are ready to worship together.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the publishers who have generously allowed free use of their stories and other material and to the friends whose faith in this book has so greatly helped to make it possible. Above all heartfelt appreciation for the help and interest of the primary teachers and children of St. Paul's Episcopal Church School of Brookline, Massachusetts, for whom these programs were prepared, and whose Primary Department was the laboratory where they were first tried out.

CHAPTER I

OCTOBER

THEME: "The Children in God's House."

With October, the church school begins a new year. It extends a welcome to both old and new pupils.

The October worship programs are planned to help these children feel happy in their Father's House; to establish conscious relationship with God their Heavenly Father; to set goals of attainment before them and give new impetus towards their realisation.

October: First Sunday.

THEME: "A Welcome to God's House."

AIM: To help the children feel happy and at home in God's house and suggest to them some simple aims for the coming year.

MATERIALS: A good sized picture of some church—their own if possible.

Blackboard and crayon.

HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People" (Danielson and Conant).

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP—NO. 9: "THE CHURCH"

2. *Superintendent rises* (She shows picture of church)

"Will you tell me what you see in this picture?"

Answer—" A church."

"Yes, a church. We call the church God's House." Repeats softly.

"This is God's House and He is here to-day" (No. 8).

"Let us all sing these words softly together." (All sing. If hymn is unfamiliar at this time, superintendent sings to the children, or singing may be omitted).

3. INFORMAL CONVERSATION AND GREETINGS

Superintendent. "Our happy vacation times are over and we are back home again. I know we are all glad to be here in God's House this morning. We see some new faces here. Promotion Day brought us some of our Kindergarten (Beginners) children. They are here with us for the first time. Shall we sing a welcome to them, and tell them how glad we are to see them?

(Children promoted to first grade come to front and face Department or they stand in their places. If any are too shy for this, do not insist).

All sing:

"We're glad to see you
We're glad to see you
Good morning, good morning
We're glad to see you."

(Music No. 1—"Song stories for the Sunday School").
(Children return to places and are seated.)

4. THE SCRIPTURE

Superintendent. We have some verses in our Bible that speak of being glad in God's House. Let us repeat them. (If verses are unfamiliar this first Sunday, superintendent will repeat alone. Verses may be written on board to help teachers and oldest pupils.)

"This is the day which Jehovah hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it."
"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of Jehovah."
"Oh come, let us sing unto Jehovah. Let us sing praises unto our God."

Superintendent. "We have a praise hymn which we sing. Let us all rise and sing it together."

5. HYMN NO. 6

"Praise Him, Praise Him" (chord, children all rise).

(The phrase "happy children" may be substituted for "Little Children." If this hymn is unfamiliar this first Sunday, another praise song may be substituted.) (Chord, children seated.)

6. PRAYER

Superintendent. "Let us now speak to the Heavenly Father in prayer and tell Him how glad we are to be in His House to-day. (All heads bowed. Children repeat after superintendent,) Dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that we are here in Thy House to-day. We thank Thee for all our happy times, this past Summer, for all our health and strength and for Thy beautiful world in which we live. Help us every day to show our love for Thee by being kind, helpful, obedient children. We ask it for Jesus' sake, who taught us to pray—saying,

"Our Father" (Lord's Prayer)

7. THE OFFERING.—OFFERTORY MARCH NO. 89

Superintendent. "One way we can show the Heavenly Father how happy we are in His House is to bring to Him our gifts. Let us bring them at this time. ("The offering brought forward in small baskets or envelopes provided—one pupil from each class. They turn and face the Department. All sing Offertory hymn No. 89: "All Things Come From Thee Oh Lord.")

All heads bowed. Repeat after superintendent. "Dear Heavenly Father, we bring to Thee our gifts to help make others happy. Amen." (Children return to seats.)

THE OFFERING SERVICE
"Father bless the Gifts we bring thee."

8. THE STORY

Superintendent. "I have a story for you this morning about a boy named Robert and how glad he was to go to God's House when Sunday came."

Robert was seven years old. He and Daddy and Mother had come to the city to live, just one week ago. Everything was very new and strange. When Sunday came, there was no Church School near by for Robert to go to. It was too far away for him to go alone. Mother said, "Wait a week or two, and mother will go with you." But Robert wanted to go the very next Sunday. All the week he thought about it. Friday, after school, he came running to mother. "Oh mother," he said, "Tom Spear lives on this block. He goes to Church School. He says I may go with him next Sunday. Please mother say yes."

Mother thought a minute. "Will you be very careful crossing the streets?"

Yes, mother, truly I will."

"You'll come right home with Tom when Church School is over?"

"Yes, mother, sure I will."

"Very well," said mother. "You may go."

When Sunday came, Robert was up bright and early. Church School was at 9:30 and Tom said they mustn't be late. He sat by the window watching. What if Tom should forget? No, there he was. He called, "hurry Robert, we mustn't be late." Robert kissed mother and hurried off.

After a long walk they came to the church. Just as they were going up the steps a voice called, "Hello, Tom, you don't go in the Primary room. You know we're *promoted.*" "Oh, sure enough," said Tom. He forgot all about Robert and turned and went in another direction. Poor Robert, he did not know where to go, or what to do. He wished he had not come. He thought, "I believe I'll go home." Then he remembered he did not

know the way. He was too big to cry, but he felt just like it.

Just then he heard a voice say, "Hello, Robert, are you coming to our Church School?" It was James, a boy from the same school he went to every day. "I don't know," said Robert. "I don't know where to go." "I'll show you," said James. "You'll be in my Department. That's the Primary. You'll like it. I've got a fine teacher. Oh, there she is now. Say, Miss Benton, can Robert be in our class?"

Miss Benton had such a happy face, and such a pleasant smile. Robert did hope he *could*.

"How old are you, Robert?" said Miss Benton. "Seven," said Robert," and I'm in the same grade as James in school." "Then you come right along with us." She led the way to a class of boys and girls.

They all looked very happy to see Miss Benton.

Robert soon felt at home. One of the boys gave him a chair. They all looked glad to see him.

It was a very happy hour. Robert knew some of the hymns they sang; and some of the Bible verses that they read.

After Miss Benton had told the lesson story, she gave each one a story paper and book cover. She asked them to keep it clean and fresh, and bring it with them every Sunday. She told them they would have a new story paper every Sunday to put in their cover. At the end of the quarter they would have a whole book of stories and a fine, new cover given them, to keep always. She asked each one not to forget to bring his story book each Sunday. She asked them to read their stories over again at home, and asked them not to forget to learn the memory verse each week. "Because," she said, "these stories and verses will tell you about God, your Heavenly Father." Then she added, "and don't forget our church school begins at 9:30 and be here on time." Robert thought, "I won't forget," and he meant it.

When Church School was over, Tom was waiting at the door for him.

"Did you have a good time, Robert," he asked. "Fine," said Robert, "I'm coming every Sunday."

Superintendent pauses for a moment after story to give the children time for quiet thought. Then she says, "Let us see if you can remember the things Miss Benton asked Robert to do. I will write them here on the board as you give them to me. (Brings out from children.)

Write on Board
- Go every Sunday
- Be on time
- Bring lesson book
- Read the story at home (or have it read)
- Learn memory verse.

Superintendent. "We are going to try to do these things too. Shall we ask the Heavenly Father to help us all this year?"

(All heads bowed).

"Dear Heavenly Father please help us this year to come every Sunday, to be on time, to take good care of our story books and bring them with us every Sunday and to learn our memory verses." Amen.

October: Second Sunday.

THEME: "Talking with God."

AIM: To help the children to talk with their Heavenly Father in a simple and natural way.

MATERIALS: Pictures—A church—same as previous Sunday.

"Baby's Prayer"—Jessie W. Smith

"We give Thee thanks,"—Jessie W. Smith

(May be secured from Pilgrim Press, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Massachusetts. Twenty-five cents each.)

"The Angelus" (Perry Picture Co., Malden, Massachusetts. Ten cents each for five or more)

HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People," Danielson and Conant.

I. THE CALL TO WORSHIP, No. 1. "FATHER IN HEAVEN"

2. *Superintendent rises.* Shows picture of church.

"Will you tell me what is in this picture?" (It is hoped this Sunday the response will be God's House.)"

Superintendent. Yes. "God's House."

We have some verses from our Bible that speak of God's House. Let us repeat them.

"I was glad when they said unto me;
Let us go into the house of Jehovah"

"My house shall be called a house of Prayer for all peoples."

(Repeat together or after Superintendent.)

Superintendent. "We have a hymn we sing about our church. I will repeat the verses to you." (Repeat No. 9.) Words may be written on board for teachers and oldest pupils. The words "Ding, Dong, Ding" may be rendered "Come, Come, Come."

(All sing together.)

Superintendent repeats softly—"This is God's House and He is here to-day. He hears each song of praise and listens when we pray."

Then all sing together No. 8.

Superintendent. "We have a prayer that we sing to the Heavenly Father. Let us bow our heads and sing this prayer together."

(All sing No. 2 "Father in Heaven.")

At close, all repeat the Lord's Prayer.

Superintendent. "Let us bring our gifts to the Heavenly Father at this time."

(Repeat last Sunday's offering Service.)

3. TALK ON PRAYER WITH PICTURES

Superintendent. "I have some pictures to show you at this time. As I show them to you, please look carefully and tell me what you see."

(Let the pictures be shown carefully and slowly, that all the children may have a chance to see them. If the

Department is *very* large—75 or 100 children, move half way down the aisle—so all may have an equal chance to see.)

a. "Baby's Prayer."

What is this little child doing?

Is it day time or night time?

To whom is the little child speaking?

Where will the little child go, when she has finished her prayer?

What do you think she is saying?

(It is here hoped to bring out the prayer of a child on going to bed. If this is the children's custom, they will respond in their own way.

Such responses as
"Bless father and mother."
"Please help me be good."
"Please take care of me."
"Our Father who art in Heaven"
"Now I lay me down to sleep"
} May be looked for.

b. "The Angelus."

"What do you see in this picture?"

"Where are these people?"

"To whom are they speaking?"

The church bell is ringing. It says "Time to pray."

"May we sometimes *stand* when we talk to God?"

"What do you think these people are saying?"

(It is desirable that the response be "For God's Care" for "For their food." Timid pupils should be encouraged by the superintendent—by—"Let us hear what John thinks"; or "Mary, *you* tell us".)

c. "We give Thee Thanks."

"To whom are these children speaking?"

"May we sometimes *sit down* when we talk with God?"

"What do you think these children are saying?"

("Thanking God for their food" will be the natural response. This leads to the children themselves, and what they have to thank the Heavenly Father for.)

Superintendent. (Puts all pictures aside.)

"Let us think quietly for a moment, then tell me for what you would like to thank the Heavenly Father." Use the children's responses and gather them all into the final prayer, which is the children's *own*.

At close, sing softly the refrain of

"Can a Little Child Like Me" No. 52

"Father we thank Thee.
Father in Heaven, we thank Thee."
Amen.

October: Third Sunday

THEME: "Talking with God."

AIM: To help the children realize how God speaks to them and that they should listen for His Voice.

MATERIALS: Picture of the Child Samuel at prayer. Reynolds.—Perry Picture Co., Malden, Massachusetts. Ten cents.

Picture of church used previous Sundays.

HYMN BOOK—"Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP—No. 1.

2. *Superintendent rises*—Holds picture of church before Department, repeats quietly. "This is God's House and He is here to-day. Let us all sing these words together."

(Chord—all rise and sing together.)

Superintendent. God has said, "My House shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Superintendent. Let us repeat together the verse that tells how glad we are to go to God's House.

All repeat—"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of Jehovah."

Superintendent. "Let us all bow our heads and sing our prayer to the Heavenly Father."

All bow heads. Sing together No. 1.

All repeat together—the Lord's Prayer.

(Chord—all seated.)

3. THE STORY.

We have been singing and talking about God's House. I have a story to tell you about a boy and what wonderful thing happened to him one night in God's House.

The Story of Little Samuel.

Once there lived a little boy named Samuel. Samuel was one of God's helpers. He lived in the church with the minister, whose name was Eli. Eli was very old, so every day Samuel helped him. He opened the church door in the morning. He helped keep the church clean and in order. He put oil in the beautiful lamp that burned always. He was a *great* help to Eli.

One night as he lay sleeping, he heard a voice calling "Samuel, Samuel." "Eli wants me" he thought. He got up and went to Eli. "Here I am, Eli," he said. "I did not call you, Samuel" said Eli, "go back to bed." So Samuel went back to his bed. But again he heard the voice, "Samuel, Samuel." "Eli *must* be calling me" he thought. So again he got up, and went to Eli. But Eli said "No Samuel, I did not call." So Samuel went back to his bed.

But again for the third time, he heard the voice call "Samuel, Samuel." Eli must surely be calling this time he thought. So for the third time, he left his bed and went to Eli. Then Eli said: "It is God's voice that you hear. If He calls again, say, 'Speak Lord, for Thy servant heareth!'" So Samuel went back and listened for God's voice. Again he heard "Samuel, Samuel!"

Then Samuel got out of bed. He kneeled down and said: "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Then God told him many things He wanted him to do.

Samuel lived to be a very great man. But he never forgot that wonderful night, when God spoke to him; and always listened for God's voice that told him what he should do.

Superintendent. Pauses a moment after finishing story—then shows picture of Samuel at prayer.

"Here is a picture of Samuel listening as God speaks to him."

(Children look reverently at the picture.)

"God speaks to us too, just as he did to Samuel.

Do you know when you have done right? Do you know when you have done wrong? It is God's voice speaking.

Shall we ask the Heavenly Father to help us listen for His voice and do what He asks us to do?"

(All heads bowed repeat after superintendent.)

Superintendent. "Dear Heavenly Father, please help us to listen to Thy voice every day, and do the things that are right. Amen."

October: Fourth Sunday.

THEME: "God's Holy Day."

AIM: To help the children realize what it means to keep God's Day holy.

MATERIALS: Birthday Calendar—Gold Stars.

HYMN BOOK: "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP, NICÆA, J. B. DYKES, pg. 124

2. OPENING SENTENCES AND SCRIPTURE

Superintendent rises. "Will you tell me what day this is?" (Answer, "Sunday.")

Superintendent. "Yes, Sunday. It is God's Holy Day." Repeat softly, all heads bowed—"Dear God, this is Your Holy Day."

(From "Prayers for Little Men and Women" by John Martin. See also p. 124 in First Book in Hymns and Worship—(This verse may be omitted if desired.)

Superintendent. "Let us all repeat our verse about 'God's Holy Day.'" (All repeat.)

"This is the day which Jehovah hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Superintendent. "Long, long ago, the Heavenly Father said—'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.'" Let us all repeat these words.

(All repeat.)

Superintendent. "Let us all repeat our verses which tell of our gladness on God's Day."

(All repeat.)

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of Jehovah."

"Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise."

Superintendent. "Let us all rise and sing one of our praise songs 'Can a little (loving) child like me.'"

3. HYMN—"Can a Little Child Like Me." No. 15

(Chord—All rise and sing)

(Chord—All seated)

Superintendent. "Let us all thank and praise the Heavenly Father as we repeat our prayer together."

4. PRAYER. (All heads bowed—Repeat after superintendent)

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this Thy Day, for Sunday. We thank Thee for Thy House, our church, where we may come and learn about Thee. We thank Thee for our good homes and happy times. We ask Thee to help us show our thanks by being Thy loving, obedient children. For Jesus' sake. Amen."

5. THE OFFERING AND BIRTHDAY SERVICE

(a) The Offering.

Superintendent. "Let us show our love and thanks by bringing our gifts at this time."

The Second Grade children have learned a verse about giving, they will repeat it at this time."

Second Grade repeats—"God loveth a cheerful giver."

(Then repeat Offering Service of previous Sunday)

(b) The Birthday Service.

(The last Sunday in the month seems appropriate to remember all the birthday children for that month. They are called to the front and face the Department.)

Superintendent. "Here are our Birthday children for October" (Mention each by name, and their age, of which children are very proud).

Superintendent. "Let us sing Happy New Year to them."

(All sing)

Happy New Year to you
Happy New Year to you
Happy New Year, dear children,
Happy New Year to you.

(Music—
"Song Stories" No. 1.)

Superintendent. (Gives each child a gold star to paste on calendar which they do themselves.)

Each child may then be given a birthday card. If accustomed to bring an extra gift at this time, they may place it in the offering basket or birthday box.

Superintendent. "Let us thank the Heavenly Father for ———" (Mention children by name).

"Dear Heavenly Father we thank Thee for———— Help them to be happy and make others happy every day of their new year. Amen (Children return to seats).

6. THE STORY

"Richard's Happy Sunday"

Superintendent. "We have been talking about God's Day—Sunday. We have repeated together, 'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.' I want to tell you about Richard and how he kept His Sabbath holy. It is the story of 'Richard's Happy Sunday.' "

"To-morrow is Sunday," said mother. "We must make it a happy day." But when Sunday morning came,

the rain was pouring down. Richard looked out the window. "I don't believe this will be a happy day" he thought.

Just then, mother came into the room. Richard turned from the window "Mother, can I stay at home to-day? See how it rains."

"Why Richard," said mother, "Last Sunday you promised Miss Bromers you'd try to go *every* Sunday; don't you think she will be there?" "Oh yes, Miss Bromers is always there," said Richard. "I am sure she would be sorry not to have you come," said mother.

"I guess she would," said Richard, " 'Cause when it rains, a good many of the boys and girls don't come. I guess I *will* go." "Yes," said mother, "you *promised.*"

Richard was there five minutes before Church School began. Miss Bromers was so glad to see him. He helped her place the chairs and put flowers on the table. Some of the boys and girls did not come, because it rained. Richard was glad he did come.

After the lesson story, Miss Bromers gave him a beautiful picture to mount on card board. It was a picture of Jesus helping and making sick people well. She told him he might take it home and hang it over his bed. She said, "Perhaps it will remind you to be kind and helpful like Jesus."

When he got home, dinner was all ready. Dinner was just the kind Richard liked. There was a surprise dessert, ice-cream, because it was Sunday.

After dinner, mother helped him to hang his picture up over his bed. Richard told her what Miss Bromers had said about being kind and helpful. Mother said, "Wouldn't you like to take Grandma Jones a surprise basket? She has rheumatism and it's hard for her to get her meals."

Richard wanted to go over to Tom's house next door. Then he thought, No, "I'll be helpful." So he put on his rain coat and started right off. My, Grandma Jones was glad to get that surprise! "To think you came in all the

rain" she said. "I like the rain" said Richard. "It's fun to be out in it." He felt glad all over.

When he got home, mother said, "Richard, would you like to have Tom come to supper?" I saw his father and mother go away and I think he is alone." "I guess I would," said Richard. "May we help get supper?"

"Yes, indeed," said mother. What a happy time they had. Mother said they were lots of help too.

When Richard went to bed that night, he looked at his picture, Jesus making so many people happy and well on Sunday. Mother looked at it too. She said, "Do you remember the memory verse, Richard?" "It was a hard one," said Richard. "It was—'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.' What's it mean, mother?" "It means," said mother, "that Sunday, or the Sabbath, is God's Day. So we learn about Him on His Day, in His House. We try to be kind and helpful and make others happy and that makes us happy, too."

Richard was very quiet, then he said, I'm glad I went to Church School in the rain. I made Grandma Jones happy too, and I'm glad I took her the surprise." "I am too," said mother.

Superintendent. (After Story)

"Let us all bow our heads."

"Father we ask Thee to help these loving children to do their very best throughout this holy day. Teach them to be helpful, and very very happy. For they would remember to keep holy this Thy Day. Amen." [1]

[1] (By Elizabeth Colson. From Pilgrim Elementary Teacher. Copyrighted, The Pilgrim Press.)

CHAPTER II

NOVEMBER

THEME: "Praise and Thanksgiving."

The November programs aim to direct the children's thoughts toward God their Heavenly Father, as the giver of daily good gifts, and to inspire their thankfulness for these gifts. They hope to show that gratitude is best expressed by giving, and by doing God's Will.

Expression is provided for this through the giving of gifts to others needing their help.

Since few children realize it, emphasis is placed upon Thanksgiving Day itself as an occasion for the giving of thanks.

November: First Sunday.

THEME: "Our Daily Bread."

AIM: To direct the children's thoughts to the Heavenly Father's daily gift of food as cause for thanksgiving. To turn their thoughts toward other children less fortunate, and inspire loving helpfulness.

MATERIALS: Pictures of Armenian children (not gruesome) secured from Armenian and Syrian Relief; 1 Madison Ave., New York.

HYMN BOOKS: "First Book in Hymns and Worship."
"Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP

"At Rest," Page 124.
"First Book in Hymns and Worship."

2. (*Superintendent rises*)

This is the first Sunday in November. In November comes a day we all love. It is called "Thanksgiving Day." All through this month we shall think of the Heavenly Father and His many gifts to us. As we remember them all, we shall try to think of some ways we can show how thankful we are. Our Bible has many verses about thanksgiving and praising the Heavenly Father. Let us repeat some of them.

3. SCRIPTURE AND SONG. (Chord—all rise)

All. "Jehovah is good to all."
"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and
Into His courts with praise."
"Oh come let us sing unto Jehovah."
"Praise Ye Jehovah."
Song, "Praise Him" Verse 1, No. 6
"Oh give thanks unto Jehovah, for He is good."
All sing. "Thank Him—thank Him" Verse 3.
Superintendent. "Let us all bow our heads and thank the Heavenly Father."
(All repeat after Superintendent)

4. A THANK YOU PRAYER

"Thank You, Father, from above,
For the friends and homes we love,
For the world so bright and fair,
Thank you for Thy loving care."

"Thank you for the food we eat,
For the Sunshine pure and sweet,
For the darkness and the light,
Thank You for the day and night."

"Thank You for our Savior dear,
Who to us is always near,
Whose dear name we love to sing,
Thank You God, for every thing."

("A Thank You Song"—From Carols)
Permission of Leyda Pub. Co.,
Wapello, Iowa.

"Our Father who art in Heaven" (The Lord's Prayer)

5. A TALK

Superintendent. "In the prayer we have just repeated we have asked the Heavenly Father to give us each day our 'Daily Bread'—that is, our 'Daily Food.'" I want to ask you if every day you have good food to eat in your homes. (Answer, "yes.") And do you think you will all have a good dinner when you go home to-day? (Answer, "yes.") And to-morrow when you get up, will every one of you have breakfast? (Answer "yes.") Yes, all through this week. You will have your good meals three times a day. Sometimes you will be hungry, but always there will be good food for you to eat.

"If dinner time came and mother should say 'There is no food for you to-day children. I could not get any' you would hardly know what to do.

"But there are little children in the world, whose mothers have had to say that to them many times. It was true. They could get no food for them, so they had to go hungry.

"I want to tell you of a picture I saw this past week. It was a picture of many, many little children. Each one of these little children had their hands stretched out for—what do you think? *Bread.* They were little Armenian children so hungry. The people of America had sent money to buy bread for them. Their teachers were there to give them the bread. Oh, how glad they were to get it. Just plain, dry bread. They were so hungry. I have some pictures of these children that I want to show

you. (Shows pictures) I have a story to tell you about these children."

6. THE STORY:

"BREAKFAST IN THE FIELDS"

(If thought best this story may be omitted.)

The children of Armenia are lost and hungry—frightened because of the war, you know. One night the enemy attacked a town in the country, and when the frightened people heard the shots, and saw the houses burning, they ran out to the fields as fast as they could. They picked up their babies and told the older children to follow.

There were no trains and no wagons, and the only automobile had been filled with the sick children. So the well children started to walk.

They walked for hours and hours, and morning came. They kept on walking, and walked all day. That night they slept in the fields with no quilts or blankets to cuddle under. A great many hungry children woke, next morning, with no food in sight. Suddenly there arose a shout of joy. The automobile had been going back and forth all through the day before and the long night, and now the children saw it coming, filled with great loaves of bread.

The teachers asked the children to sit on the ground in rows, and the bread was given to them. Of course everybody expected to see the bread disappear at once, but it did not. Those hungry children stood, bowed their heads and gave thanks for the bread America had sent them.[2]

To-day there are a great many teachers, doctors and nurses over there, taking care of these children, so many many of them with no homes, no fathers, no mothers. Every day they get nice bowls of hot soup and bread to

[2] By Elizabeth Colson. From Pilgrim Elementary Teacher. Copyrighted, The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission.

eat. Our money helps to buy it for them. Would you like to send some of your gift money to help buy food for them? (The response will be glad and eager)

7. THE OFFERING SERVICE

(After the children have collected the offering, and brought it to the superintendent—all the children may repeat with bowed heads:

"Take our Offering dear Father,
And use it, we pray,
To help other children,
In lands far away."
Amen.

(If offering is taken for other hungry children rather than Armenians, the program should be adapted—as, immediately following the "Talk" or story, the superintendent should say, "There are many hungry children in the world who need our help, so they may have their daily bread. Would you like to send some of our gift money to help them?")

November: Second Sunday.

THEME: "Thanking God by Giving."

AIM: To help the children show their thankfulness to the Heavenly Father for His good gifts, by giving to others needing their help.

MATERIALS: Picture—"We Give Thee Thanks" (See October—Programs)

A plain, good sized basket.

HYMN BOOK:—"A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Prelude No. 118.

2. CONVERSATION

Superintendent rises, and shows picture "We give Thee thanks," asks "Will you tell me what these children are doing?" (Praying) "Yes, they are praying—talking to God. What do you think they are saying?" ("Thank you for the food")

Yes, they are thanking the Heavenly Father for the food He has given. (Lays picture aside).

"What day is coming when we remember especially the Heavenly Father's good gifts to us and thank Him for them?

"Thanksgiving"—(Children may not respond readily since many children do not associate thanksgiving with giving thanks. Therefore, the thought needs emphasis)

Superintendent. "Let us all repeat our verse that tells us from whom all our good gifts come."

3. SCRIPTURE RECITATION (All together)

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father."

Superintendent. "Let us all thank the Heavenly Father, for His good gifts."

4. PRAYER (All heads bowed and repeating after superintendent)

"We have so much to thank Thee for
Our Heavenly Father dear.
For life and love and tender care
Through all the happy year.

For homes and friends and daily food,
Each one a gift of love,
For every good and perfect gift
Is from our God above." [3] Amen.

[3] From "Melodies." Used by permission of Leyda Pub. Co., Wapello, Iowa.

Superintendent. "Let us all sing our thanks to the Heavenly Father."

5. HYMN—"Can a Little Child Like Me" No. 15

(Chord—all rise and sing)
(Chord—all seated)

Superintendent. "One beautiful way we can thank the Heavenly Father for all He gives us, is by giving to others who need our help. We are giving our offering each Sunday to help ———— (mention object)
Let us bring our offering now."

6. THE OFFERING SERVICE

After offering is brought to front, children all repeat with bowed heads.

"Take our offering, dear Father,
And use it we pray—
To help other children
In lands far away."
Amen.

Superintendent. "We have said that one of the best ways to thank the Heavenly Father, is by making others happy with our gifts. I have a story to tell you this morning, about some children and how they made somebody very happy by their gifts at Thanksgiving time. It is called "The Children's Surprise Basket."

7. THE STORY:

"THE CHILDREN'S SURPRISE BASKET"

(A true story)

One Sunday, two weeks before Thanksgiving, Robert and Nathalie came home from the church school greatly excited.

"Mother, what do you think our Department is going

to do"—said Nathalie—"we're going to give a Surprise Basket."

"It's going to be a Thanksgiving Surprise" said Robert. "We're going to give it to Mr. James. He's blind, and sells papers on a street corner. His wife is lame. She used to help him. She sat out on the step and sold papers. But this week she fell down and hurt herself, and now she has to stay in bed all the time."

"And you children are going to give them a thanksgiving basket?" said mother.

"Yes," said Robert "We're going to surprise them. That's why we call it the Surprise Basket. All the honor children in our Department are going to take it. We're going in a big automobile."

"I think it's a fine idea," said mother. "What will you and Nathalie take?"

"Miss Newton said we could bring any thing we wanted, just something nice for Thanksgiving. But she wants us to buy the things with our very own money, not just ask you for them."

Nathalie and Robert each had a quarter of their own to spend every week. They decided they would use it all for their gifts. When Sunday came Robert had six fine oranges in a bag, and Nathalie a quart of cranberries, with some sugar to cook them with. Mother added a jar of canned fruit as her share.

When the children came to the church school, they found Miss Newton had trimmed the Surprise Basket and the table most beautifully with orange crêpe paper. The paper was covered with attractive pictures just right for thanksgiving. Two vases of purple asters stood on either side. The children could hardly wait to put their gifts in the basket. And what a wonderful basket it was too. Everything good for Thanksgiving. There were potatoes, and squash and onions; some canned vegetables and fruit, celery, a bag of nuts and raisins besides the gifts Nathalie and Robert brought. When the time came for the offering, the children could not begin to

get them all in the basket. They piled it full, then covered the table; some gifts even had to go on the floor. Miss Newton and the teachers gave the money to buy a good-sized chicken.

The next day after school, the boys and girls who stood highest in their church school record, gathered in their room. The automobile was waiting. Soon the basket and gifts were piled in, and they were off.

My, how surprised Mr. and Mrs. James were to see all those things! So be sure Mr. James could not see them with his eyes, but he touched them with his fingers; that was his way of "seeing."—The children carried all the gifts in themselves, and heaped them around Mrs. James as she lay in bed.

Then Miss Newton said, "Shall we sing one of our Thanksgiving hymns for Mr. and Mrs. James? So they sang "Can a Little Child Like Me." They sang so well, Mrs. James said. "Oh, won't you please sing another one?" So they sang, "For the Beauty of the Earth."

Then it was time to go home. So they all said "good-bye" and climbed into the big automobile.

"Oh, mother," said Nathalie, "you just ought to have seen how happy Mr. and Mrs. James were. They said they never had had a Thanksgiving basket before. They said they couldn't eat all the things up in a week. I wish Robert could have gone."

"Next year I will," said Robert. And he did.

Superintendent. Pauses a moment after the story, then says "Do you think it would be a good plan for us to surprise somebody with a Thanksgiving basket?" (Children will respond eagerly)

Superintendent. "I thought you would, so I have this basket all ready. (Shows basket.) Later we will decide to whom we will send it." (Do not enter into any discussion here, lest the worship be lost sight of.)

Superintendent. "Let us all bow our heads."

(All repeat)

"Dear Heavenly Father help us to make some one else

very happy with our basket of gifts on Thanksgiving Day. Amen."

November: Third Sunday.

THEME: "Showing Thanks by Doing God's Will."

AIM: To strengthen the children's desire to show gratitude through giving to others.

MATERIALS: A picture of fruit, one of birds, an Autumn nature picture, a picture of a father and mother. All secured from Magazines or other sources—carefully trimmed and mounted.

Hoffman's "Head of Christ" Perry Picture Co. 10-cent size.

The Thanksgiving basket, trimmed and ready for gifts.

Hymn Book—"A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP

"The Hour of Worship," No. 25.

2. *Superintendent rises.*

"Last Sunday we talked about the Heavenly Father and His good gifts to us. What verse in our Bible speaks about these gifts?"

(All) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father."

Superintendent. "Let us sing one of our Thanksgiving Hymns about these gifts."

3. HYMN—"For the Beauty of the Earth" No. 20

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "I have some pictures to show you of the Heavenly Father's good gifts. Look at the pictures carefully and tell me what you see." (Show pictures slowly and carefully, holding so all may see)

Fruit

Birds

Autumn picture
Father and mother
Picture of Christ.

Superintendent. "Let us sing those verses of our 'Thank You Hymn' which speaks of these gifts."

4. HYMN—"Can a Little Child Like Me" No. 15.

Superintendent. "Can you tell me other gifts we enjoy every day?"

(Try to bring out individual responses as "sunshine" "autumn foliage and flowers" "homes" "love and care" "food" etc)

Superintendent. "Yes, all these many gifts that make us happy every day—our Bible speaks of this."

(All repeat) "Jehovah hath done great things for us whereof we are glad. Oh give thanks unto Jehovah, for He is good."

Superintendent. "Let us speak to the Heavenly Father and thank Him for all these good things."

5. PRAYER. (All repeat after the superintendent)

(The superintendent includes in her prayer, good gifts mentioned by the children)

"Our Father we thank Thee at this time, for the fruit Thou hast made to grow for us, for the birds that sing of Thee, for the beautiful world in which we live; for our happy play times; for our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters; for Thy care that keeps us safe; for Thy goodness everywhere, and for the great gift of Thy Son, Jesus. Father we thank Thee."

(All sing softly) "Father we thank Thee,
Father in Heaven we thank Thee"
Amen.

6. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Superintendent. "There are two ways we can thank the Heavenly Father. One is by giving to others, who

need our help. The other, by doing the things He wants us to do. We know He is pleased when He sees us giving to others. This morning we are to bring two kinds of gifts. One of money to help (mention object) the other, gifts for our Thanksgiving basket. Let us first bring our gifts of money."

a. (The offering collected and brought to the front, with offering prayer. See last Sunday's program.)

b. Bringing the Thanksgiving gifts.

(These should have been kept in the rear of the room. They may now be brought to the front individually, or by classes. They are placed in the basket by the children and shown to the Department, as they are brought up. Let the superintendent comment on the beauty or appropriateness of the gifts brought, making much of them. This will add greatly to the joy of the children.)

After all the gifts have been brought to the front, the superintendent should close with a brief prayer repeated by the children as—

"Dear Heavenly Father we bring to Thee our gifts this morning, to show Thee our love and thanks. Please help them to make others very happy this thanksgiving time. Amen."

November: Fourth Sunday.

THEME: "The First Thanksgiving."

AIM: To deepen the children's impressions of God's care as cause for gratitude in the story of the First Thanksgiving.

MATERIALS: Broughton's "Pilgrims going to church." Perry Picture Co. 10-cent size.

Birthday calendar—Gold stars.

HYMN BOOK: "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Hymn of Praise" No. 20

2. *Superintendent rises.*

"Thanksgiving Day will soon be here. It is the day when we remember especially all the Heavenly Father's good gifts to us, and thank Him for them. There are verses in our Bible that speak of praise and thanksgiving. We will repeat them now." (May be written on board)

(Chord—all rise)

(All) "Oh give thanks unto Jehovah for He is good."

Superintendent. "Jehovah is good to all. Let everything that hath breath praise Jehovah."

(All) "Praise Ye Jehovah."

3. HYMN—"A Sunday Hymn," No. 17 1 verse

Superintendent. "Let us repeat our verse about God's good gifts."

(All) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father."

4. HYMN—"Thank the Lord for All His Love" No. 18 1 verse.

5. PRAYER. (All repeat after superintendent. May be omitted if program is too long)

(With bowed heads.)

"We have so much to thank Thee for,
Our Heavenly Father dear
For life and love and tender care
Through all the happy year.

For homes and friends and daily food,
Each one a gift of love.
For every good and perfect gift
Is from our God above." [4]

(Repeat softly chorus of "Thank the Lord for All His Love")

(Chord—all seated.)

[4] From "Melodies." Used by permission of Leyda Pub. Co., Wapello, Iowa.

7. PRAYER—(Repeat after superintendent with bowed heads)

"Our Father we thank Thee for this happy Thanksgiving time. We thank Thee for our food, our good homes, our fathers and mothers and all dear to us. We thank Thee for Thy loving care that has kept us safe all through the year. We thank Thee for our good times and happy holidays. We thank Thee for Jesus our friend and helper. Keep us to grow like Him, kind, helpful and loving. Amen."

8. THE OFFERING SERVICE with recognition of birthdays for November (See October program 4)

After all gifts have been received it would be fitting if a report be given of the Thanksgiving basket taken. Children come to front and informally give an account of their visit. If they are uncertain how to proceed, superintendent should question each one as—"Where did we take our basket?"

"What kind of home was it?"

"What did we do while there?"

"What did they say about our basket?" etc

(This report may be omitted if it seems best.)

Superintendent. "We have a story this morning of a time long ago. A story about the first Thanksgiving." (This story may have been previously told to a third grade boy or girl, who at this point will give it in *their own words.* If some child already knows a story of this time it may be told to Department.)

9. THE STORY:

"THE FIRST THANKSGIVING"

A long time ago there lived some people called Puritans. They lived in England. The Puritans were good people. They loved God and tried to please Him. But the Puritans were not happy. Some of the people living

in England did not love God as they did. They did not live good lives. They disliked the Puritans and made things very hard for them.

The Puritans knew about America. They said—"If only we might go to America, we could build our own church—we could live as God wants us to."

They asked the King to let them go. For a long time the king said "No." But the Puritans kept on hoping and asking God to help them. At last there came a day when the king said—"Yes, you may go."

So they started off. At first they went to Holland. They stayed there some time, for they had no ship to cross the ocean in. But one day, permission was given them to use the little ship Mayflower. Now they could start for America. So their names were changed. They were the Pilgrims, travelling to their new homes. They crowded on board, fathers, mothers and children, so happy to be off for America at last.

After a long stormy trip they reached land. But a hard time was still ahead. It was now cold November. They must build their homes, defend themselves from the wild animals, and unfriendly Indians. The ground was hard and frozen—very little food was to be had.

But they never gave up. They built their little church and every Sunday they worshipped God just as they had planned.

In the Spring they planted their crops and when Fall came they had a fine harvest. Their homes were built. They had good food to eat. They had their dear church. Some of the Indians were their good friends.

The Pilgrims said—"What can we do to show our thankfulness to God for his loving care, and for all his gifts? They thought it all over. Then they said: "Let us have a great Thanksgiving time. Let us have a feast and invite our friends to share it. Then we will all thank God together."

So they did. Everybody gave something towards the feast. Their friends all came and sat down to the table

with them. Then they all thanked God together. It was a wonderful time. It was the first Thanksgiving.

Superintendent. (After the story.)

"Let us all look at this picture of the Pilgrims going to church.

"Tell me things you see in the picture."

("Church"—"guns"; "Snow"—may be answers given.)

Superintendent. "The Pilgrims loved their little church. Every Sunday they went to worship God. Even though they feared the Indians or wild animals might attack them still they went. And God took care of them. Shall we thank the Heavenly Father for His care of the Pilgrims so long ago?"

(All repeat after superintendent with heads bowed.)

"Our Father we thank Thee for Thy care of the Pilgrims so long ago, and for their happy thanksgiving time. Amen."

CHAPTER III

DECEMBER

THEME: "Loving and Giving."

The thought of Christmas brings joy to all children alike. Their minds, however, are naturally more filled with the joy of receiving from others, rather than the giving of gifts themselves.

The December programs aim to inspire a spirit of giving on the part of the children, and to direct their thoughts of Christmas to Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, born anew with every Christmas—God's best gift to the world.

Pictures will add greatly to the effectiveness of the programs.

A beautiful picture of Jesus should be bought. Hoffman's "The Christ," No. 805, 10-cent size. Perry Picture Co., Malden, Massachusetts, or 802 B in the $1.25 size (or 2 for $2.00) will be very helpful and either picture found worthy of framing, thus becoming permanent possessions of the Department. The "Sistine Madonna." No. 322 B. 10-cent size, or $1.25 size will either one visualize the baby Jesus for the children, while Le Rolles' "Arrival of the Shepherds" No. 620 and "The Announcement" by Plockhorst, No. 811, will all add to the strength and beauty of the Department programs.

The children will delight to make a Christmas poster under their teacher's direction as a surprise for the Department. "The Coming of the Wise Men to Bethlehem" is not difficult to make. A simple Christmas card may furnish the design and be copied either in whole or in part.

Let the Christmas atmosphere of joyous loving and

giving pervade every program throughout December. So shall the stories old yet ever new speak their message to every childish heart.

December: First Sunday.

THEME: "Jesus' Birthday a Time for Giving to Others."

AIM: To help the children realize that Christmas is Jesus' Birthday, and to associate it with *giving* rather than receiving.

MATERIALS: Picture of Hoffman's "Head of Christ." Perry Picture Co., Malden, Mass. 10-cent size.

Pictures of child or adult life associated with giving Christmas gifts. Secured from Christmas magazines or other sources. Trimmed and carefully mounted.

HYMN BOOKS: "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

"Songs for Little People."

"Easter Bells,"[1] Beg. Stories, Pt. 7, St. 79. Pilgrim Press.

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP—"Silent Night," No. 82 —First Book in Hymns and Worship.

2. (*Superintendent rises.*) CONVERSATION

"A beautiful time of year has come, a time we all look forward to with great joy. Soon will come happy surprises for everybody. Can you tell us what day I mean?" ("Christmas.")

Superintendent. "Yes, *Christmas,* Christmas is some one's birthday—some one we all love. Perhaps you do not know whose birthday it is." (It may cause surprise to find there will be children in every group who do not know that *Christmas* is Jesus' birthday.) "I will show you His picture." (Shows picture of "Hoffman's Christ.")

[1] Melody only.

"Whose picture is this? ("Jesus'.") "Yes, Christmas is Jesus' birthday. I will read you the story of Jesus' Birthday from our Bible."

3. SCRIPTURE. Luke 2:8-17 (May be recited by third grade boy or girl, or some class if thought best)

Superintendent. "We have a beautiful hymn that we sing about that wonderful night, when the Baby Jesus was born—Let us all sing it softly, as we are seated here."

4. HYMN—"Silent Night," No. 82.

Superintendent. "Let us now repeat the verse that tells us how much the Heavenly Father loved the world.

5. SCRIPTURE

(All) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Superintendent. What name was chosen for God's Son by the Angel, before his birth?

(All.) "Thou shalt call His name Jesus."

Superintendent. "Let us all rise and sing another hymn about Jesus' birthday."

6. "AWAY IN A MANGER" No. 60. "Songs for Little People." (Any appropriate Christmas hymn may be chosen)

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us now thank the Heavenly Father for the glad Christmas time."

7. PRAYER. (Repeat with bowed heads after superintendent)

"Our dear Father we thank Thee for the happy Christmas time. We thank Thee for the gift of Thy dear Son —Jesus. We thank Thee that He came to earth as a little baby, that He grew to be a child like one of us, and lived

on earth everybody's friend and helper. Help us to grow like Him. Help us to make other people glad and happy just as He did." Amen.

Superintendent. "Let us show our love at this time by giving our gifts for others."

8. OFFERTORY. Music, "Easter Bells"

Offertory Prayer. "A Gift from Children," No. 30. First Book in Hymns and Worship".

Superintendent. "I will ask Miss —— to play the music again she used for our offering service. Let us listen very carefully and see if we can hear any bells ringing."

(All listen and note "bells" which pianist should make prominent)

Superintendent. "I have a story to tell you this morning about some bells, and how they rang at Christmas time."

9. THE STORY:

"A Christmas Story"

High up in the steeple hung the Christmas bells. They had hung there many, many years. On each Christmas day they always had rung such beautiful music. One day one of the little bells cracked and could ring no more. A little new bell was hung in its place. Christmas was coming very soon. "What shall I do? I do not know how to play the Christmas music; I do not know how to ring," said the little bell.

"Never mind," said the other bells, "you will know when the time comes. Just wait and listen, and you will know."

So the little bell waited and listened. The street below was full of people, some coming this way and some going that. At night time the street was full of lights; some were the street lights and some were in the store windows;

some were in the trolley cars and some were on the automobiles.

But the little bell liked best to watch the people passing, and to hear what they said, for he was waiting to learn what to ring on Christmas day. An old man came by. He was somebody's grandfather. His arms were full of bundles. The little bell could hear him saying, "Now I have something for little John, and for the baby, and won't they be surprised?" And he laughed.

Then came some boys and girls hurrying home from school talking and laughing together.

"O, I have something to give to mother and to father" said another.

The little bell could hear them each one telling of what they were going to give.

Soon came a good mother walking past with such a happy face and more packages than you could count. There was something for every one at home—father, brothers, sisters, baby. The little bell watched them all and listened and thought.

At last Christmas Day came and the Christmas bells began to ring. All the people stopped to listen to the beautiful music of their ringing. Then the little bell knew what to say, and it rang out:

"Loving — Giving —
"Loving — Giving —

And all the other bells sang the same story:

"Loving — Giving —
Loving — Giving —"

(At close of story children may sing "Easter Bells" substituting the word Christmas for Easter, and "Loving —Giving" for "Ding-Dong.")

Superintendent shows one or two pictures of children or older people with Christmas gifts for others. She may mention the Giving service to be held in connection with the Christmas festival and conclude with:

"This is the way we give Jesus birthday presents. We give to those who do not have all we have. This makes

Jesus very happy on His birthday. Shall we ask the Heavenly Father to help us remember to do this?

Prayer—(Repeated after Superintendent.)

"Dear Heavenly Father, please help us to remember to make Jesus happy on His birthday, by giving to others." Amen.

December: Second Sunday.

THEME: "Love Shown by Unselfish Giving."

AIM: "To associate in the children's minds, their thought of Christmas, with unselfish giving."

MATERIALS: Picture—Hoffman's "The Christ" used previously.

HYMN BOOKS: Those used in connection with the Christmas hymns. "Easter Bells" (used previous Sunday)

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Easter Bells"

2. *Superintendent rises.*

"Miss —— has just played for us. Did you hear the bells ring as she played?"

"What did the bells say?" (Some will remember "Loving—Giving")

"Yes, 'Loving and Giving.' What day is coming when we give to those we love?" ("Christmas.") "Is there any other time when we give to those we love?" (Some will say—"Their birthday.") "Is *Christmas* any one's birthday?" ("Jesus' birthday.") "Yes, Christmas is Jesus' birthday. How happy it makes Him to have us give gifts to those He loves on His birthday! Let us look at His picture." (Shows Hoffman's "Christ.") "Shall we sing one of our hymns about Jesus' birthday?" All sing.

3. "SILENT NIGHT" (or other appropriate Christmas hymn)

Superintendent. "Let us listen to the story of Jesus' birthday, from our Bible."

4. LUKE 2:8-17 (Superintendent reads, or pupil or class recites. Verses may be repeated by Department if well known)

Superintendent. "Let us repeat our verse about God's love for the world."

(All) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Superintendent. "Let us thank the Heavenly Father for the gift of His Son, Jesus.

5. PRAYER.

(Repeat the prayer of last Sunday).

Superintendent. "Let us show our love and thanks at this time, by bringing our gifts for others."

6. OFFERING SERVICE (with prayer of last Sunday.)

Superintendent. "We have talked this morning of giving gifts to those we love at Christmas. I have a story for you this morning about a little boy who showed how much he loved his mother, by what he gave her at Christmas."

7. THE STORY:

"THE JAR OF ROSEMARY"

There was once a little prince whose mother, the queen, was sick. All summer she lay in bed, and everything was kept quiet in the palace; but when the autumn came she grew better. Every day brought colour to her cheeks, and strength to her limbs, and by and by the little prince was allowed to go into her room and stand beside her bed to talk to her.

He was very glad of this for he wanted to ask her what she would like for a Christmas present; and as soon as he had kissed her, and laid his cheek against hers he whispered his question in her ear.

"What should I like for a Christmas present?" said

the queen. "A smile and a kiss and a hug around the neck; these are the dearest gifts I know."

But the prince was not satisfied with this answer. "Smiles and kisses and hugs you can have every day," he said, "but think, mother, think, if you could choose the thing you wanted most in all the world, what would you take?"

So the queen thought and thought, and at last she said "If I might take my choice of all the world, I believe a little jar of rosemary, like that which bloomed in my mother's window when I was a little girl, would please me better than anything else."

The little prince was delighted to hear this, and as soon as he had gone out of the queen's room he sent a servant to his father's greenhouses to inquire for a rosemary plant.

But the servant came back with disappointing news. There were carnation pinks in the king's greenhouses, and roses with golden hearts, and lovely lilies; but there was no rosemary. Rosemary was a common herb, and grew, mostly, in country gardens, so the king's gardeners said.

"Then go into the country for it," said the little prince. "No matter where it grows, my mother must have it for a Christmas present."

So messengers went into the country here, there and everywhere to seek the plant, but each one came back with the same story to tell; there was rosemary, enough and to spare, in the spring, but the frost had been in the country and there was not a green sprig left to bring to the little prince for his mother's Christmas present.

Two days before Christmas, however, news was brought that rosemary had been found, a lovely green plant in a jar, right in the very city where the prince himself lived.

"But where is it?" said he. "Why have you not brought it with you? Go and get it at once."

"Well, as for that," said the servant who had found

the plant, "there is a little difficulty. The old woman to whom the rosemary belongs did not want to sell it even though I offered her a handful of silver for it."

"Then give her a purse of gold," said the little prince.

So a purse filled so full of gold that it could not hold another piece was taken to the old woman; but presently it was brought back. She would not sell her rosemary; no, not even for a purse of gold.

"Perhaps if your little highness would go yourself and ask her, she might change her mind," said the prince's nurse. So the royal carriage drawn by six white horses was brought, and the little prince and his servants rode away to the old woman's house, and when they got there the first thing they spied was the little green plant in a jar standing in the old woman's window.

The old woman herself came to the door, and she was glad to see the little prince. She invited him in, and bade him warm his hands by the fire, and gave him a cooky from her cupboard to eat.

She had a little grandson no older than the prince, but he was sick and could not run about and play like other children. He lay in a little white bed in the old woman's room, and the little prince, after he had eaten the cooky, spoke to him, and took out his favorite plaything, which he always carried in his pocket, and showed it to him.

The prince's favorite plaything was a ball which was like no other ball that had ever been made. It was woven of magic stuff as bright as the sunlight, as sparkling as the starlight, and as golden as the moon at harvest time. And when the little prince threw it into the air, or bounded it on the floor, or turned it in his hands, it rang like a chime of silver bells.

The sick child laughed to hear it, and held out his hands for it, and the prince let him hold it which pleased the grandmother as much as the child.

But pleased though she was she would not sell the rosemary. She had brought it from the home where she had lived when her little grandson's father was a boy, she

said, and she hoped to keep it till she died. So the prince and his servants had to go home without it.

No sooner had they gone than the sick child began to talk of the wonderful ball.

"If I had such a ball to hold in my hand," he said, "I should be contented all the day."

"You may as well wish for the moon in the sky," said his grandmother; but she thought of what he had said, and in the evening when he was asleep she put her shawl around her, and taking the jar of rosemary with her she hastened to the king's palace.

When she got there the servants asked her errand but she would answer nothing till they had taken her to the little prince.

"Silver and gold would not buy the rosemary," she said when she saw him; "but if you will give me your golden ball for my little grandchild you may have the plant."

"But my ball is the most wonderful ball that was ever made!" cried the little prince; "and it is my favorite plaything. I would not give it away for anything."

And so the old woman had to go home with her jar of rosemary under her shawl.

The next day was the day before Christmas and there was a great stir and bustle in the palace. The queen's physician had said that she might sit up to see the Christmas tree that night, and have her presents with the rest of the family; and every one was running to and fro to get things in readiness for her.

The queen had so many presents, and very fine they were, too, that the Christmas tree could not hold them all, so they were put on the table before the throne and wreathed around with holly and with pine. The little prince went in with his nurse to see them, and to put his gift, which was a jewel, among them.

"She wanted a jar of rosemary," he said as he looked at the glittering heap.

"She will never think of it again when she sees these things. You may be sure of that," said the nurse.

But the little prince was not sure. He thought of it himself many times that day, and once, when he was playing with his ball, he said to the nurse, "If I had a rosemary plant, I'd be willing to sell it for a purse full of gold. Wouldn't you?"

"Indeed, yes," said the nurse; "and so would any one else in his right senses. You may be sure of that."

The little boy was not satisfied, though, and presently when he had put his ball up and stood at the window watching the snow which had come to whiten the earth for Christ's birthday, he said to the nurse, "I wish it were spring. It is easy to get rosemary then, is it not?"

"Your little highness is like the king's parrot that knows but one word, with your rosemary, rosemary, rosemary," said the nurse, who was a little out of patience by that time. "Her majesty, the queen, only asked for it to please you. You may be sure of that."

But the little prince was not sure; and when the nurse had gone to her supper and he was left by chance for a moment alone, he put on his coat of fur, and taking the ball with him he slipped away from the palace, and hastened toward the old woman's house.

He had never been out at night by himself before, and he might have felt a little afraid had it not been for the friendly stars that twinkled in the sky above him.

"We will show you the way," they seemed to say; and he trudged on bravely in their light, till, by and by, he came to the house and knocked at the door.

Now the little sick child had been talking of the wonderful ball all the evening. "Did you see how it shone, grandmother? And did you hear how the little bells rang?" he said; and it was just then that the little prince knocked at the door.

The old woman made haste to answer the knock and when she saw the prince she was too astonished to speak.

"Here is the ball," he cried, putting it into her hands. "Please give me the rosemary for my mother."

And so it happened that when the queen sat down

before her great table of gifts the first thing she spied was a jar of sweet rosemary like that which had bloomed in her mother's window when she was a little girl.

"I would rather have it than all the other gifts in the world," she said; and she took the little prince in her arms and kissed him.[5]

Superintendent (after story): "How happy the little Prince made his mother, didn't he? He even didn't mind giving up his ball—to get her just what she wanted for Christmas!

"I wonder how many children are planning to make their fathers and mothers and those they love happy with gifts on Christmas Day?"

"Who are planning to use some of their own *money* to buy gifts for our "Giving Service?"

"I am wondering if some boys or girls will do like the little Prince and give up something they would like to keep for themselves. Let us think about it and try to be like the little prince." (It may be well not to have a show of hands in answer to this last suggestion since children assent readily to almost anything asked of them at this age. It will be best for them to *think* of something they could give. Later decision may come to give it.)

Superintendent. "Let us ask Miss —— to play "The Bells" for us again when it comes to the part where they ring—let us all sing "Loving-Giving."

(Pianist plays and children sing according to direction.)

December: Third Sunday.
(Or Sunday before Christmas.)

THEME: "God's Best Gift."

AIM: To help the children feel that Jesus is God's best gift to the world.

MATERIALS: Christmas poster, made and presented

[5] From "The Story Teller For Little Children." By Maude Lindsay. Used by permission of Lothrop, Lee and Shepard.

by some class, of the wise men travelling across the desert on their camels to Bethlehem. Birthday calendar with large gold star; Primary Lesson-Picture of "Shepherds on Hillside," from "Primary Picture Set," International closely graded lessons. Le Rolles' "Arrival of the Shepherds"—Perry Picture Co. 10-cent size.

HYMN BOOKS: Those used in connection with the Christmas hymns.

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Silent Night"

2. (*Superintendent rises.*) CONVERSATION

"We are all so happy this morning. Christmas is here! We have been talking and thinking about it all this month. We have been planning our gifts to make others happy and this has made us happy too. Long, long ago the Heavenly Father gave the world a beautiful Christmas gift. Before that gift came, there was no Christmas. People did not know how to give Christmas presents. They had not even thought of doing it. I will ask Miss —— to play for us and then I will ask you to tell me what this gift was." (Pianist plays softly "Away in a Manger" or other very familiar Christmas hymn while children listen. This may be necessary, since children do not naturally associate the thought of Jesus as God's gift at Christmas.)

"Yes, I see you know what that gift was. What was it, Mary? (choosing some child she knows will answer correctly.)

"Yes, Jesus, God's dear son. Long, long before Jesus came people knew He would come and were waiting for Him. One of their teachers wrote about Him—he said:

3. SCRIPTURE

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the Government shall be upon his shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6.)

"And then at last, one beautiful night, Jesus was born just a tiny baby.

"I have a beautiful picture of that night to show you" (shows primary lesson picture.)

(*Superintendent* brings out from children what they see in the picture as "shepherds," "sheep," "great light," "Bethlehem in distance," etc.)

(*Superintendent* holds picture before Department, or has some child do so.)

"While we look at the picture, let us repeat the story of Jesus' birth from our Bible." (Luke 2:8-17 may be recited.")

Superintendent. "Let us sing our Christmas hymn about this picture."

4. HYMN: "Oh little town of Bethlehem" (church hymnal)

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.)

(Continue program at this point with offering service —if poster is not presented.)

Superintendent. "Miss —— class has a surprise for us. They have made us a gift. They will present it at this time." (Poster brought forward by children, and shown to Department.)

Superintendent. "We read that three great kings called wise men, when they heard the child Jesus was born, left their country, and guided by a star travelled many, many miles over the hot desert to find Him. We thank —— for their gift of this poster."

(All repeat, looking at poster):

"And lo, the star which they saw in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him."

(Children return to their seats. Poster fastened up before Department.)

Superintendent. "We read of the wise men, that opening their treasures, they offered unto him gifts. Let us bring our gifts in Jesus' name to make others happy."

(If a special offering has been planned for this time, either of money or other gifts, it may be brought at this time. If a "giving service" is to be observed at another time with whole school, the regular offering may be given at this time.)

5. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Offering brought forward—all stand and sing offering hymn. (See "First Book in Hymns and Worship," p. 143.) (Children seated.)

Superintendent. Shows birthday calendar.

"Why do we put gold stars on this calendar?"

"Whose birthday will it be December 25th?"

"What day is that?"

"Who was born on Christmas Day?"

"I have a very beautiful gold star here. Shall we put it on our calendar for Jesus' birthday?"

(Calls child to place star on calendar.)

6. PRAYER

(All repeat after superintendent with bowed heads):

"Our dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for Jesus who came to earth that first Christmas Day so long ago. We thank You for the beautiful stories we know about Him, for the shepherds on the hillside, and for the wise men who brought Him their gifts. Help us remember to make Jesus happy on His birthday, by giving gifts to others."

(All sing, heads still bowed—"A Prayer"—No. 83—"First Book in Hymns and Worship.")

"The story of Jesus' Birthday" is added, in case the superintendent thinks it best to teach one lesson to the

whole Department for this Sunday. This story may be told by one of the teachers, and may follow the placing of the star on the calendar—after a familiar Christmas hymn has been sung.

7. THE STORY:

"THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTHDAY"

One winter day, long, long ago, many people were travelling to Bethlehem. The king wanted them to write their names in his book. In this way he would know how many people there were in the country.

Among those travelling to Bethlehem was a young woman named Mary. Her husband travelled with her. His name was Joseph.

When Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem, they found many people were there ahead of them. Every house was full. Even the hotel did not have one place where they might sleep. "What shall we do," said Mary, "I am so very tired."

The hotel keeper said, "Would you sleep in my stable? There is nice soft hay there, where you might rest." "We will be glad to sleep there," said Mary.

So the hotel keeper led them out to his stable. The donkeys and sheep stood quietly around. In one corner was a bed of soft hay, near by was a manger. But Mary and Joseph were glad to sleep there. They were so tired.

Alone, on the hillside, outside of Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching their sheep. While they watched, they talked to one another.

"I heard wonderful news in Bethlehem to-day," said one. "An angel has appeared to a young maiden named Mary. He has told her she shall have a baby boy, who shall grow to be our king, our king whom we have waited for so long."

"That is joyful news indeed," said another. "When our king comes we shall all be happy, for he will love us, and help us every one."

"Oh, if he would only come to-night," said a third. They looked up where the stars shone so clear and bright.

Suddenly a wonderful light lit up the sky. The shepherds were greatly frightened. What could it mean? While they trembled with fear an angel stood by them. "Fear not," said the angel, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy—Jesus your king has come. You will find him a little baby, lying in a manger, in a stable in Bethlehem."

And then the sky grew brighter still. All God's heavenly angels were singing a beautiful song, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men."

So sang the angels. And then the beautiful light faded, the sky grew dark, the angels returned to heaven—the shepherds were alone on the hillside.

"Our king is born," they said joyfully. "Let us hurry to Bethlehem."

They hastened down the starlit road till they came to Bethlehem. And there they found it all as the angel had said. Mary and Joseph watching over the baby Jesus asleep in a manger. For a wonderful thing had happened that night. A dear little baby had come to Mary and Joseph. It was the little Lord Jesus. And the shepherds went back to their sheep on the hillside, praising God for His best gift to the world, the baby Jesus.

(All sing) "A Christmas Refrain," No. 87—"First Book in Hymns and Worship." Then may be shown, Le Rolles' "Arrival of the Shepherds." Allow plenty of time for this. Hold picture reverently. Bring out from the children what they see as "the stable," "the wondering shepherds," the "beautiful light," the "babe in the mother's arms."

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for sending us Jesus, Thy dear son, who came on Christmas Day. Amen."

December: Fourth Sunday.
(Or Sunday after Christmas.)

THEME: "The Christmas story retold."

AIM: To deepen the children's impression of Christmas as the birthday of Jesus.

MATERIALS: The Christmas poster, primary lesson picture of shepherds on hillside.

HYMN BOOKS: "A First Book in Hymns and Worship," "Songs for Little People," and others used with the Christmas hymns.

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Easter Bells" used previously

2. *Superintendent.* "We have all been very happy this week. Birthdays bring us joy, and Jesus' Birthday—Christmas— has made many, many children happy all over the world.

"This morning we will retell our stories, sing our hymns, and repeat our Bible verses that remind us of Jesus' Birthday.

"Long, long before Jesus came, a great teacher said something beautiful about Him. His words are in our Bible. Let us all repeat them now." (May be read, if children do not know the words.)

3. SCRIPTURE. Song and Story.

Superintendent. "And at last the Holy Child was born. Angels brought the glad news to some shepherds on a hillside (shows primary lesson picture). Let us all look at our picture of that night."

Superintendent. "What glad news did the angels bring?"

(All): "For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

Superintendent. "What beautiful song did they sing?"

(All): "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased."

All sing "A Christmas Refrain," No. 87—"First Book in Hymns and Worship."

Superintendent: "Where did the shepherds find the baby Jesus?"

(All): "And they came with haste and found both Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger."

(All sing): "Away in a Manger," No. 60—"Songs for Little People."

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent: "The story of Jesus' birthday will be told by ———."

(Pupil comes forward, faces the Department, and tells the story.)

(If program must be shortened, omit this story.)

Superintendent (calls attention to the Christmas poster.)

"What others visited the Baby Jesus?" (The wise men.)

Superintendent: "The visit of the wise men will be told by ——."

(Pupil comes forward and facing Department tells the story.)

Superintendent: "We read that the wise men opening their treasures offered unto Him gifts. Let us bring our gifts in Jesus' name."

4. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Pianist plays "Offertory No. 34"— "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

(Gifts brought forward.)

(All sing): "Offertory Hymn," p. 143—"First Book in Hymns and Worship."

(The December birthdays will be recognised here. If there should be no birthday for this month, the worship

may close with the bringing of gifts and the words by superintendent at close of the birthday service.)

5. THE BIRTHDAY SERVICE

(Children called to the front. Stars placed on birthday calendar, and birthday offerings given.)

Superintendent. Mentions age of each child, then (all heads bowed):

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for (mention names) whose birthdays make us so glad at this Christmas time."

(All repeat):

"Like the Christ child may they grow,
Taking joy where e'er they go;
Guard them all their new year through,
In all they say and all they do." Amen.[6]

Superintendent. Jesus' birthday is over for another year. But we shall not forget all the happiness it has brought us. We will remember Jesus always, and He will never forget us. Let us all repeat with bowed heads:

"Be near me Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever,
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care,
And help us to please Thee
And willingly share."

(From "A First Book in Hymns and Worship.")

(THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN is given, that the story may be told to some child in the Department, who retells it in his own words.)

[6] Adapted and used by permission of David C. Cook Pub. Co., Elgin, Ill.

"The Visit of the Wise Men"

Long, long ago, in a country far away, there lived some men who were called "wise men." They were wise because they studied very hard, and wished to learn everything they could. One day they were studying an old book. In this book they read that some day, Jesus Christ, a very great king should be born, who would love and help all people. At the time of His birth a new and wonderful star would shine in the sky. So every night when it was clear, the wise men studied the sky. They would say, "Perhaps to-night we will see the wonderful new star. Then we will know Jesus the king is born."

One night the stars shone clear and bright. The wise men were watching for the star as they had so many nights.

Suddenly one of them said, "See, there is the beautiful new star! Yes, there shone the star, larger and more beautiful than any of the others. As they looked, it began to move. "Let us follow it," said the wise men. "Let us start to-night. It will lead us to Jesus the king."

Each wise man took a beautiful gift, the most precious thing he had, for the new king. Then they mounted their fine camels, and started off across the desert to find King Jesus. And the beautiful new star moved on before them.

Every night they travelled, looking at the star. Each day they rested, for the sun shone hot in the desert and they could not see the star.

It was a long, long way to go. Sometimes they were very thirsty, but there was no water in the desert. Sometimes the sun shone so hot they longed for shade trees, but there were very few trees in the desert. Sometimes they got so tired, riding on the camels' backs. But they would not turn back, for they said, "We *must* find King Jesus." And the star shone high above them, always leading them on.

One night the star led them to a little town. It was Bethlehem! Could their king be here?

Straight through the quiet streets rode the wise men. The wonderful star shone clear and bright, right over the little house where Mary and Joseph lived with the Baby Jesus.

"Our king is here," said the wise men. "Our search is ended. Let us enter."

The camels kneeled and the wise men went in and found the Baby Jesus in His mother's arms.

How glad the wise men were. They knew the Baby Jesus was the king they had come so far to find. They bowed very low. Then each wise man gave the beautiful gift he had brought, the most precious thing he owned, to show his love for the Baby Jesus. The wise men went back to their camels and rode home across the desert. But always as long as they lived they remembered the king they went so far to find, and they were so glad they had given Him the most precious thing they owned to show how they loved Him.

CHAPTER IV

JANUARY

THEME: "The Heavenly Father and His Children."

"Happy New Year" is still fresh in the children's minds with this, the first Sunday in January. The aim of this program is to create a desire to live as God's child, every day of the new year, and to this end simple goals for conduct are formulated.

The two following programs are given to impressing the children with the thought of God's protecting care of his child. Primary children, especially those of the first grade, are naturally timid and fearful. The programs suggesting God's protecting care will be found helpful in controlling children's fear at this age, and give to all the comforting sense of God's continual and protective presence, wherever they are.

Sometimes the thought may unconsciously arise in children's minds, "Since my Heavenly Father gives *me* so much, why does He not give to all children alike?"

To this end, the last program for the month aims to give the children the thought that God is depending on *them* to help care for children less fortunate than themselves, and that it is their happy privilege to share with other children the Father's good gifts to them.

January: First Sunday.

THEME: "God's Child."

AIM: To help the children feel that God's child tries to please Him every day.

MATERIALS: Blackboard and chalk.
HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Father in Heaven," No. 1

2. *Superintendent.* "This is the first Sunday in our New Year. I am sure we all want to say 'Happy New Year' to one another."
(Chord—all rise and sing):

Happy New Year to you,
Happy New Year to you,
Happy New Year, Happy New Year—
Happy New Year to you.

(To tune of "Good Morning to You," in "Song Stories for the Sunday School," Clayton F. Summy Co., No. 1.)
Superintendent. "Let us sing a New Year hymn together."

3. "A HAPPY NEW YEAR," NO. 67

(Chord—all seated.)
(If hymn is unfamiliar, superintendent may repeat words of first part, and children the refrain and omit the singing.)
Superintendent. "We have just sung of the joy the old year brought us all. Let us repeat our verse which tells us from whom come all our good gifts."

4. SCRIPTURE RECITATIONS

(All repeat):
"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father."
Superintendent. "Yes, God is our loving Father, who sends us good things every day. There is a verse in our Bible that speaks of Him as our Father."
(All repeat): "Oh Jehovah, Thou art our Father."

Superintendent. "Will you mention some of the good gifts the Heavenly Father sends us?"

(Children make responses, with help of superintendent if needed, as, "Is your home warm these cold days?" "The world looks very beautiful these winter days." "I saw some children look very happy when their teachers came in this morning." Such remarks and others may suggest gifts not thought of.)

Superintendent. "There is a verse which tells us of the Heavenly Father's best gift; shall we repeat it now?"

(All): "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Superintendent. "Let us thank the Heavenly Father for all these gifts."

5. PRAYER

"Our dear Heavenly Father we thank Thee for all Thy good gifts to us. We thank Thee for (mentioning here the children's responses.) We thank Thee most of all for Jesus the children's friend. Help us to please Thee every day, by being Thy loving, kind, obedient children." "Our Father" (The Lord's Prayer.)

Superintendent: "The Heavenly Father gives us so many good gifts every day, let us bring our gifts to Him at this time."

6. OFFERING SERVICE

(With Offering Hymn No. 90.)

7. *Superintendent.* "Let us sing one of our Thanksgiving Hymns."

(Chord—all rise and sing No. 52.)

(Chord—all seated.)

8. "A NEW YEAR TALK"

Superintendent. "We have been talking this morning about the Heavenly Father's good gifts to His children.

I want to ask you some questions and have you think carefully before you answer. "Are we all God's children?" ("Yes,"). "Is there any one here who is not God's child?" ("No.") "Yes, we are all God's children. Sometimes God's child does wrong. But is God's child *sorry* when he does wrong?" ("Yes.") "Does God's child try to do right?" ("Yes.")

Superintendent. (Turns to blackboard): "I want you all to think how God's child will try to act this Happy New Year. I will write what you tell me to." (Turns to blackboard):

This Happy New Year I will try
In my Home
("To obey—help.")
At School
("Earn stars; get promoted.")
In Church School
("Be on time; bring an offering; learn to tell the stories.")

(The responses noted, were given by real children.)

Superintendent. "Let us ask the Heavenly Father to help us do these things."

9. PRAYER

(Guided by responses.)

"Dear Heavenly Father, help us all this happy New Year to be—

———————in our homes
———————at school and
———————in our church school."

(All sing softly with bowed heads):

"Father in Heaven, help thy loving children
To please Thee ever in their work and play.
Help them to be truthful, gentle, kind and loving,
To be like Jesus and follow Him alway. Amen."

January: Second Sunday.

THEME: "God's Child is not Afraid."

AIM: To help the children to realize they need never fear, since God's care is always about them.

MATERIALS: Pictures of night, secured from magazines or other sources.

HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Father in Heaven," No. 1

2. *Superintendent.*

"We are here in God's House this morning. He is glad to see us here; He will listen while we sing and when we pray. Let us all sing, 'This is God's House.' "

(Chord—all rise and sing No. 8.)

"Let us thank the Heavenly Father for His loving care."

3. MORNING HYMN, NO. 2

(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us repeat the verse that tells us—God is our Father."

4. SCRIPTURE

(All): "Oh Jehovah, Thou art our Father."

Superintendent. "There is another verse which tells us God keeps us safe."

(All): "Jehovah is Thy keeper."

Superintendent. "And because the Heavenly Father keeps us safe always we need never fear. Let us repeat the verse that tells us what to do when afraid."

(All): "What time I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee."

Superintendent. "The Heavenly Father's loving care surrounds us day and night. He gives us everything we have. Let us show our love for Him, by bringing our gifts for others."

5. OFFERING SERVICE

(With Offering hymn No. 90.)

Superintendent shows picture of night—asks, "Is this day time or night time?" "How do you know it is night?" "Yes, the stars are in the sky. The sun has gone. It is dark."

"I have a story to tell you of a boy who was alone at night, far away from every one he knew. He felt very lonely and was afraid. But something that happened that night took all his fear away. It is the story of Jacob, the boy who learned not to fear."

6. THE STORY:

"JACOB, THE BOY WHO LEARNED NOT TO FEAR"

Once upon a time, long ago, there lived a boy named Jacob. His father was a rich herdsman. He owned hundreds of sheep and cattle, rich pasture lands with beautiful fields and meadows.

Jacob helped his father and the servants care for the sheep and cattle and led a very busy and happy life. Yet often he would think, "I wish I might travel and see the world—and how other people live."

One day his father said to him, "Jacob, how would you like to visit your uncle Laban and see another country besides your own?"

Jacob was delighted. He thought, "Now I shall see the world." He said, "When may I start father?" "Tomorrow, if you wish," said his father.

Jacob went and told his mother. She helped him pack the clothes he would need to take with him.

In the morning he was up with the sun, and kissing his father and mother good-bye, he started off down the road.

It was a long journey to his uncle Laban's home, and he must walk all the way. But the sun shone bright, the sky was blue overhead, the birds sang in the trees, so Jacob was very happy as he walked along. At noon he

sat down under the shade of a big tree, and ate the lunch his mother had given him. After he had rested awhile, he got up, and again walked on.

But now there were steep hills to climb—the rough stones hurt his feet. He felt very tired. Then he thought, "I am alone; it will soon be night. How much I wish I might see my father and mother." They seemed so far away. Jacob had not thought of the night time, when he started off so happy that morning.

And now it was very dark. The sun was quite gone. One by one the little stars came out—Jacob felt more lonely still. He was even afraid to go to sleep, for fear something might happen to him. But he was too tired to walk any farther. So he wrapped his cloak around him and taking a stone for a pillow he lay down on the ground and tried to sleep. For a long time, though, he could not sleep. He kept thinking of his home, of his father and mother, and of his nice soft bed. He had never felt so alone or so afraid before. But he kept looking at the friendly stars overhead and at last he fell asleep, and as he slept he had a wonderful dream. He saw a beautiful golden stairway, like a ladder. It rested on the earth—and its top reached to heaven. Passing up and down this golden stairway were God's beautiful angels. Then Jacob heard God's voice. The voice said, "Jacob, you are never alone, for I am always with you, and I will keep you wherever you are."

In the morning Jacob awoke. The sky was blue and the sun was shining bright. Jacob remembered his beautiful dream. He thought, "God is with me always, I need never be afraid again." Then he picked up his cloak and walked on toward his uncle's country.

Superintendent (after story): "Let us all repeat, " 'What time I am afraid I will put my trust in Thee.' "

7. PRAYER

"Dear Heavenly Father, help us to remember You are always with us, and help us never be afraid. Amen."

January: Third Sunday.

THEME: "The Heavenly Father's Care."

AIM: To deepen the children's impression of their Heavenly Father's care.

MATERIALS: One or more pictures of Chinese children secured from the Missionary Education Movement or Denominational Publishing Board (Foreign.)

HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Father in Heaven," No. 1

2. *Superintendent.* (Repeats reverently)

"This is God's House and He is here to-day,
He hears each song of praise and listens when we pray."

"Let us all sing these words." (From "Songs for Little People."

3. (ALL SING): "This is God's House," No. 8.

Superintendent. "Let us bow our heads and thank the Heavenly Father for His loving care."

4. PRAYER SONG

"Father of all in Heaven above,
We thank Thee for Thy love;
Our food, our homes, and all we wear,
Tell of Thy loving care."[7]

5. SCRIPTURE RECITATIONS

Superintendent. "Let us repeat our verse about God's care."

(All repeat): "He careth for You."

Superintendent. "What verse tells us that God keeps us safe?"

(All repeat): "Jehovah is Thy Keeper."

[7] From "Song Stories for the Sunday School." Used by permission of Clayton F. Summy Company.

Superintendent. "What may we do when afraid?"

(All repeat): "What time I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee."

Superintendent. "Let us all sing about our Heavenly Father's care."

(Chord—all rise and sing):

"How Strong and Sweet My Father's Care." [7a]

(Another hymn about the Father's care may be substituted if thought best.)

(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us all repeat together, the prayer we call the 'Lord's Prayer,' the one Jesus has taught us."

6. THE LORD'S PRAYER

(All repeat with bowed heads), after which may be sung, heads still bowed, "Father in Heaven," No. 1.

Superintendent. "Let us bring our gifts for others at this time."

7. THE OFFERING SERVICE. (With Offering hymn No. 90)

Superintendent. "Last Sunday we talked about the verse, 'What time I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee.' I told you the story of a boy and how he learned never to fear, because he found out God was always with him. This morning I want to talk about the verse, 'Jehovah is Thy Keeper.' How God the Heavenly Father took care of a little girl. This little girl lived in a country far away from here. I will show you a picture and see if you can tell me the name of that country." (Superintendent shows Chinese picture of children. Some in the group will immediately recognize the country as "China.")

Superintendent. "Yes, my story is about a little Chinese girl this morning. It is called 'The Story of Little Garden Flower.'"

[7a] (Found in "Carlos," Ledya Pub. Co., Wapello, Iowa.)

8. THE STORY:

"THE STORY OF LITTLE GARDEN FLOWER"

Far away across the sea, is a country we call China. Many people live in China, but very few know anything about God, the Heavenly Father.

If you were a boy and lived there you would be happy, your father and mother would love you, and be proud of you. But if you were a little girl, things would be very different. Fathers and mothers do not always love their girl babies in China, so many girls are very unhappy there.

In a little house in China lived a father and mother and their three sons. The father was very proud of them. Wherever he went, he would tell people about his boys. "You ought to see my three fine boys," he would say.

But one day a baby girl was born. She was a dear little baby, with bright eyes and a happy smile. But her father and mother did not love her. All they said was, "We wish she had been a boy." One day, the father said, "We must get rid of her." So he got a basket, put his baby girl in it and started out. He thought, "I will leave the basket along the road somewhere." On the way he met one of his friends. His friend said, "What have you got in your basket?" "Our baby girl," said the father. His friend pulled the covering aside and looked in. "Why," he said, "it is a pretty baby. What are you going to do with it?" "Oh, leave it somewhere," said the father; we do not want a girl baby."

"It seems a pity to leave such a pretty baby," said his friend. "Why don't you take it to the Missionary's house? I've heard they like girl babies there." And on he went.

The father went on with his basket. By and by he came to a lonely part of the road. "There is a good place," he thought. So he put down the basket, and

turned to go. But as he started away the baby looked up in his face and laughed.

"I wonder if the missionary *would* take her," he thought. "I believe I'll try." So picking up the basket once more, he started out to find the missionary's house. When he got there, he watched his chance and slipped up to the porch. There he dropped the basket and hurried off. Now Chinese babies are like all babies. Sometimes they cry as well as laugh. And so it was that the missionary heard a baby cry out on her porch. She went to see who it was. And there she found the dear little baby in the basket.

She carried it carefully into the house. She said, "See what some one has left on our porch." There were many Chinese girls living with the missionary. She loved them all. They all crowded around the basket. "Oh, see what a dear baby it is," they said. "Oh, may we keep it?" "Yes, we will keep her," the missionary said. "We will find room for her somewhere." The girls named her Little Garden Flower, because she was so pretty and sweet. They all loved to take care of her. Little Garden Flower had found a good home, where everyone loved her.

She grew to be a lovely little girl, and a very happy one. She learned to know about Jesus and how He loves all little children alike. She learned about God the Heavenly Father and how He takes loving care of little children everywhere.

When night would come they would all gather around the missionary and she would tell them stories.

But the one Little Garden Flower loved best to hear was, "how God took care of her and brought her to the missionary's house."

Superintendent (after story). "Let us sing, 'How Strong and Sweet my Father's Care.' "

(All sing) or repeat hymn sung previously.

Superintendent. "Shall we thank the Heavenly Father for His care of Little Garden Flower?"

(All repeat with bowed heads):

"Our dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for taking care of Little Garden Flower, and bringing her to the missionary's house. We thank You for taking care of us, every day we live. Amen."

January: Fourth Sunday.

THEME: "Helping the Heavenly Father Care for His Children."

AIM: To help the children realize they may have a part in helping the Heavenly Father care for His children.

MATERIALS: Some picture which illustrates the object of the children's giving—Birthday calendar and stars.

HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Father in Heaven," No. 1

2. *Superintendent*

"This is God's Holy Day and we His loving children are here in His house together. Let us sing our prayer song, 'Father in Heaven, Bless Thy Loving Children.'"

3. PRAYER SONG, NO. 1

(All sing with bowed heads.)

4. *Superintendent*

"There is a verse in our Bible which tells us about God's holy day. Let us all repeat it."

5. SCRIPTURE RECITATION

(All repeat): "This is the day which Jehovah hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Superintendent. "There is a verse that tells us we should be glad and thankful when we come into God's house.

(All repeat): "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise."

Superintendent. "Let us praise and thank our Heavenly Father in song."

6. PRAISE HIM, NO. 6. Verses 1 and 3

(Chord—all rise and sing.)
(Chord—all seated.)

7. *Superintendent*

"There are so many things the Heavenly Father gives us to make us glad and thankful. Let us think of some of them."

(Children respond with "gifts" that make them glad—as our homes, "because we're well and strong," "good times," "the bright sunshine," "the snow.")

Superintendent: "Let us tell the Heavenly Father how glad we are to be in His house this morning and thank Him for all these good things."

8. PRAYER

(All heads bowed—repeat after superintendent):

"Dear Heavenly Father, we are glad to be here in Thy house this morning. We thank Thee for (mentioning all the children's responses.) We ask Thee to bless all our children who are sick (many of the younger primary children are sick during winter months) make them well soon, and bring them back to us well and strong. Help us to show we love Thee by being kind and obedient; help us to serve Thee by helping others every day."

PRAYER RESPONSE, "Lord of the Sunlight," No. 35

Superintendent. "All this month we have been talking about the Heavenly Father and His children, even though sometimes we did wrong. We have talked about the Heavenly Father's care of His children and that even

at night and when we were alone we need never be afraid. Last Sunday we had the story of a dear little Chinese girl, Little Garden Flower, and how the Heavenly Father took care of her. The Heavenly Father needs all of us to help Him in caring for His children. My story this morning will tell you about a little boy, and how he helped."

9. THE STORY:

"ANOTHER STORY ABOUT LITTLE TROT"

Little Trot was playing on the beach near his home. He had made a big mountain of sand. It was almost as high as the rocks that lie asleep all day in the sun.

When Trot had worked for a long time, Jane, his nurse, brought him a roll and a piece of chocolate. Trot turned the mountain into an arm-chair, and sat happily biting his roll and nibbling his chocolate.

Then something happened. A little boy came wandering down the beach. Trot stopped eating and stared. He had never seen a boy so dirty before. The boy's feet were bare and his shirt was torn. The boy stopped and looked at Trot. Trot crammed the last bit of roll into his mouth.

"Have you had your lunch?" he asked.

"No," said the boy. "There wasn't any."

"Did your mother forget to go to market?" Trot wondered how a mother *could* forget her little boy.

The boy did not answer.

Trot sat thinking. "Then you are hungry. If I had known you were coming I could have saved my roll."

The boy made holes in the sand with his bare toes.

Then Trot asked, "Do you ask God to give you your daily bread?"

"No," said the boy. "Is it true about God?"

"Why, of course," said Trot. "We talk to Him every day, and He takes care of my daddy when he is on the

sea, and He gives us our daily bread, and jam, and chocolate, too."

Trot looked at the boy and decided that he really did not have much to say thank you for. He had no hat, no shoes, no bath, and no lunch.

"Where is God?" asked the boy.

"Everywhere, 'specially in churches," Trot answered. "He hears everything you say. To-night, before you go to bed, ask Him to send you a roll for lunch to-morrow and you will get it."

"Where shall I find it?" and the boy looked doubtful.

Trot looked around for a good place. There were little caves in the rocks where the water never came.

"Ask God to put it in that little cave in the rock," said Trot. "When you go to bed to-night, say to God, 'Please put a roll for me in the little cave in the rock where Trot keeps his spade. Amen.' "

The boy nodded and ran down the beach the way he had come.

The next day, when Trot went to play on the beach, he ran to a little cave in the rock. He looked in, and put his hand in and felt around, but there was nothing there but his spade. He wondered.

Then Jane came calling, "Trot, Trot! here is your lunch."

Trot ran and took the roll Jane offered and put it quickly into the cave. When he turned the little ragged boy was coming, hungry for his roll.

When the boy had swallowed the last crumb, Trot asked, "Was it good?"

"Yes, very," said the boy. "But God did not put it there. You did. I saw you."

Trot was very solemn. "Yes, I did," he said, "but I think God told me to. He needs us all to help him sometimes. My mother told me so. I help him plant seeds, and feed chickens, and I suppose he wanted me to help him with that roll."

"Oh," said the boy. "Shall I say it again to-night?"

"Yes, do," said Trot. And the boy ran off.

"Jane," said Trot, when he was ready to play on the beach next day, "please bring two rolls this morning"; and Jane did.[8]

Superintendent (after the story): "The Heavenly Father has many, many children, so many that we could not possibly count them all. He needs our help in caring for them. Every Sunday we bring our gifts to help the Heavenly Father care for His children. We will bring our gifts at this time."

(It is very important that the children know for what they are giving each Sunday. It will be most appropriate at this time to ask the children. The thought should be emphasized that in bringing our gifts we are helping the Heavenly Father care for His children. He *needs* our help. The giving service should be made very impressive for this Sunday, and climax the worship for the hour.)

10. THE GIVING SERVICE

(With Offering Prayer No. 90) or:

"Take our offering dear Father,
And use it we pray,
To help Thy dear children
In lands far away. Amen."

(The birthday service may be used at this time, if customary to have children bring special gifts for others. Otherwise it may be observed on another Sunday.)

[8] By Elizabeth Colson. From Pilgrim Elementary Teacher. Copyrighted, The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission.

CHAPTER V

FEBRUARY

THEME: "Love for Country."

The Primary child is none too young to have instilled in him ideals for Patriotic Service. Our Government is asking that this teaching be given in the Elementary schools and Primary children will doubtless be given it there.

Nevertheless, the church school will do well to emphasize this teaching, and the first program for February is arranged with this thought in mind. A little book on this subject which will be found exceedingly helpful for Primary Superintendents is, "What to do for Uncle Sam," by Carolyn Sherman Bailey, published by A. Flanagan Co., Chicago, Ill.

If thought best, the material provided for the first Sunday may be made to cover two Sundays, omitting the program "Showing Love for One's Country."

It has seemed best to make mention of our great President Lincoln and one program is given to this.

The "Flag of God's Kingdom" will fittingly climax all the February programs, for as the story teaches, "You can't be a good citizen of any country, unless you are first a good citizen of God's Kingdom."

February: First Sunday.

THEME: "Our Country's Flag."

AIM: To help the children realise that being true to their flag involves certain duties and responsibilities.

MATERIALS: An American Flag. Pictures of some

local home, street, school and park. (If not possible to obtain real pictures, secure them from magazines or other sources. Trim all such and carefully mount.)

HYMN BOOKS: "Songs for Little People," "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Lord of the Sunlight," No. 35

2. *Superintendent*

(Repeats words slowly and reverently): "Let us all sing these words."

3. (ALL SING WITH BOWED HEADS) No. 35.

4. *Superintendent*

"Some of our older boys and girls have studied about good King David, who lived so long ago. One of the fine things he did was to write hymns for his people to sing. We call these hymns "the Psalms"; and they are in our Bible. I will read one now." (This Psalm may be recited by Superintendent or by a class or pupil, if preparation has been made.)

5. PSALM 100

Superintendent. "We have just said, 'Give thanks unto Him and bless His name.' Something for which we are all thankful, every day we live is our country—our great United States. Let us all rise and sing 'America.'"

6. CHORD

(All rise—sing "America.")

(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us all thank the Heavenly Father for our country."

7. PRAYER

"Oh God, our Father, we thank Thee this morning for our country, for America. We thank Thee for those brave men and women who have helped make our land a safe and a happy country to live in. Help us every day we live to be true to our country and our flag. Help us to live every day, so our country may be proud of us. Amen."

Superintendent. "In our great United States there are many children who will gather to-day and learn about the Heavenly Father. They will hear the stories about Jesus. But there are children in far away lands who do not know of God's love. Let us bring our offerings at this time to help these children."

(The above remarks should be made appropriate to the gifts brought—if *not,* for "children in lands far away.")

8. THE OFFERING

(With Offertory Prayer of previous Sunday.) Offertory music, "My Country's Flag."

Superintendent. "We will sing a hymn at this time to our flag. I will ask ——— (naming some child) to come forward and hold our flag, because I know he will do it well." (Child comes forward, and holds the flag before Department.)

9. MY COUNTRY'S FLAG, NO. 69

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

Superintendent. "Let us now salute our flag."

(All): "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and to the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible with liberty and justice to all."

All sing refrain of "My Country's Flag."

(Chord—all seated.)

10. A TALK ABOUT "BEING TRUE TO OUR FLAG"

Superintendent. "I am certain there is not one child here who does not love his flag. I can see it in your faces. Let us talk together about some of the things children will do if they love their flag. Our flag stands for our country—America. If we love our flag, then we love our country, and especially that part of our country where we live (mention town or city.) I am going to show you some pictures of things that belong to you children; because you live in ——— (name home town or city.")

Superintendent shows picture of Public Park or Square. (This picture may be omitted if for any reason children would not be familiar with a park.) "What is this picture?" (Children name it.)

Superintendent. "What makes this park so beautiful?" ("Trees, water, green grass, flowers.")

Superintendent. "The law of our city says, 'Children help keep this park beautiful; it is *yours.*' 'Keep off the grass,' because if you don't it will cease to be beautiful for everybody to look at. Leave the flowers growing where they are, so all may enjoy them. Keep the ground free from papers, so it may be beautiful and clean for all. So that is one way we can show love for our country and flag. Help keep our park beautiful."

Superintendent shows picture of street. "What does this picture show? It looks very beautiful; what makes it so?" ("Order," "people's yards," "trees.")

Superintendent. "Everything looks so clean and so in order. The other day, I was walking along and I saw something that made me sad. Some boys had taken chalk and marked all over the sidewalk and even over the side of a building. How do you think it made that street look? Do you think those boys showed love for their flag when they did that?

"I saw something else that same day. The wind was blowing some papers about. A dear little girl stopped

and picked them all up and piled them back on the newsstand. Nobody asked her to do it. The newsman was not there. Why do you think she did it?

"I think she showed love for her flag, don't you? She helped keep that street in order. So every child who helps keep their street clean is showing love for his flag.

Superintendent—shows picture of school—asks "What is this a picture of? Yes, *a school* (or *your* school) "What boys and girls grow to be the most useful men and women, those who work hard in school, or those who don't study? Yes, of—course, those who study their lessons every day—'earn stars' and get promoted. These are the children who show love for their flag in school. They will grow to be the men and women who will best serve their country."

Superintendent shows picture of a home. "This is my last picture. What is this?" ("A house.") "Yes, a house, it is where some children live with father and mother. It is a *home*. In your home every day you are asked to obey father and mother. Often you are asked to help. Sometimes this is not easy, but the children who obey father and mother are learning to obey the laws of their country too. They show they love their flag. Let us all think of these things while we sing—"

(All sing refrain of "My Country's Flag.")

Superintendent. "Let us ask the Heavenly Father to help us." (All heads bowed.)

"Our Father help us to show we love our country and flag, every day we live.—Amen."

February: Second Sunday.

THEME: "True to the Flag."

AIM: To help the children realise the greatness of Lincoln's character. To help them desire to be like him and to honor their flag.

MATERIALS: An American Flag, a good picture of Lincoln—or an individual picture for each child, to be

mounted and taken home. May be secured from Perry Picture Company, Malden, Mass., 10-cent size or 1-cent size.

HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP.—"Lord of the Sunlight," No. 35

2. *Superintendent.* "This is God's Holy Day. We are glad to be here in His house. Let us rise and repeat that Psalm of King David in our Bible that speaks of this gladness—after which we will *sing* our praise."

(Chord, all rise)

3. PSALM 100—with Hymn 6: 2 verses

Superintendent. "There is something for which we are all very thankful, something we talked about last Sunday. What children here are glad they live in the United States?"

"Yes, we are all glad we live in America. Let us all sing our hymn 'America.'"

4. AMERICA—2 verses. (Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us speak our thanks to God at this time. Let us all pray."

5. PRAYER (Repeated after superintendent)

"Our Father, we thank You for this great land of ours, America. We thank You for our good homes, and that we live in this safe and happy country. Help us always to be true to the flag of our country. Our Father," (The Lord's Prayer.)

Prayer Response—(Heads bowed).

"Lord of the Sunlight" No. 35.

Superintendent. "Let us now bring our gifts to help ——who do not know about the "Lord of the Sunlight and the Lord of the Starlight," who is our loving Heavenly Father."

6. THE OFFERING—with Offering Prayer

Offertory music "My Country's Flag."

(The remarks made by the Superintendent at this time will be guided by the object for giving.)

Superintendent. "We will salute the flag of our country at this time, and sing our hymn about our flag." (Flag held by child before Department)

7. FLAG SONG and Salute used previous Sunday

Superintendent. "Last Sunday we talked about being true to our flag. We spoke of what children might do to show love for their flag. (If there is time, secure children's responses at this point.) This morning I have a story for you that will show how a young man by being kind and honest was true to his flag. It is called:

"THE STORY OF AN HONEST GROCER"

Long ago, in a tiny brown house, lived a mother and her little boy. They were very poor. Every penny must be counted many times before it was spent. Some weeks it did not seem as though there would be enough money to buy the food and clothes they must have. And coal must be bought too, to keep the two fires going. The little boy did not mind wearing patched clothes, but sometimes he *did* wish for butter on his bread, or that mother might have sugar in her tea, every night.

One Saturday afternoon it was very cold. It looked like more snow. The mother said, "Do you think you could go to the store and get us some groceries to last over Sunday?" The little boy was proud to be trusted. He said, "Yes indeed, mother." So his mother told him what things to get. Then she opened her little worn black bag, and took out a dollar bill. She said, "There will be just thirty-seven cents change. I know you will be very careful and bring it safe back."

Then she helped him on with his coat and tied a big woolen scarf around his neck. The little boy pulled his

cap way down over his ears. Then he kissed mother good-bye and started off.

It was two miles to the little grocery store, a long, cold walk for a little boy to take all alone. But he trudged along bravely, not stopping once on the way.

On entering the store, he thought first the grocer was not there. But looking carefully he spied a tall, thin young man in the back of the store, seated near the stove reading a book. As soon as he saw the little boy, he laid down his book and came forward. The little boy thought he had never seen a kinder face before. With a pleasant smile he said—"Well, sonny, and what can I do for you?"

The little boy told him what he wanted and handed out the precious dollar. The grocer tied the things up quickly and handed back the change.

The little boy put in carefully in his mitten. Then he picked up the package of groceries and started back home.

My, it was cold! The wind blew right in his face. Tiny flakes of snow began to fall. His bundle of groceries seemed to get heavier every minute. How glad he was, when he saw the light shining from the little brown house. He was home at last.

As he took off his mitten, he handed his mother the change. He said "There, mother, I kept it safe, all the way home."

His mother counted it carefully, but there was fifteen cents missing. Where could it have gone! The little boy was certain he had put every cent the grocer gave him, in his mitten. His mother knew he had not spent it on himself. He never did that. He must have dropped it on the way home. How sad the little boy felt. He tried to be brave, but the tears would come. His mother had trusted him and he had failed her.

"Never mind dear" said his mother. "You did not mean to lose it. I know how sorry you are."

After they had had supper, the little boy and his

mother sat down by the fire together. The mother took her knitting. The little boy looked at his favorite book.

"My, how hard the wind blows," said the mother. "It is snowing fast. I hope no one has to be out to-night."

Just then there came the sound of footsteps. They stopped at their door. Then there came a loud knock. The mother hurried to open the door. There stood the young grocer. "I'm sorry to trouble you, Ma'am, he said, but by mistake I gave your little boy fifteen cents too little. So I walked out to give it to you." He handed out a dime and five pennies. Then he turned and was off, to walk the two miles back to his store. How happy the little boy felt to see the lost change. "Oh, mother, he said, I'm so glad I didn't lose it after all. Wasn't it *kind* of Mr. Lincoln to bring it back?"

For this honest young grocer was none other than Abraham Lincoln. All his life people loved him, and even after he became President, they still remembered and talked of him as "Honest Abe."

Superintendent (after story) shows picture of Abraham Lincoln, or distributes small picture, one for each child.

9. PRAYER

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for our great President, Abraham Lincoln. We thank You for all he did to make our country safe and happy. We thank You that he was always true to his flag. Please help us to be like him. Amen."

February: Third Sunday.

THEME: "Showing Love for One's Country"

AIM: To deepen the children's love for their country, and create in them a desire to serve that country—every day they live.

MATERIALS: The American Flag; A picture of Holland showing the dikes, if one is procurable.

HYMN BOOK: "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. Patriotic Hymn No. 100

2. *Superintendent*—(asks some child to come forward and hold the flag before the Department)

"Every one who lives under the stars and stripes is protected by our Government. We all live safe and happy lives, because we are living under the American Flag. It is God our Father who has given us our flag. We all love our Flag. Let us sing our thanks for it.

3. PATRIOTIC HYMN—(Chord—all rise.) No. 100, one verse, all heads bowed. (If this hymn has not been learned, the words may be repeated after the superintendent, or other appropriate words may be used.)

Superintendent. "Let us all salute our flag and pledge our loyalty to our country."

4. ALL SALUTE THE FLAG

Superintendent. "Let us sing our hymn to our country."

5. ALL SING AMERICA

(Chord—all seated)

6. PRAYER (Repeat the one used last Sunday, with the Prayer Response "Lord of the Sunlight")

Superintendent. "Let us repeat King David's Thanksgiving Hymn—Ps. 100."

7. ALL REPEAT PSALM 100

Superintendent. "One way we can thank the Heavenly Father is in bringing our gifts for others. Let us bring them at this time."

8. OFFERING WITH OFFERING PRAYER

Offertory Music—Patriotic Hymn 100.

Superintendent. "If I should ask you this morning whether you loved your country, whether you all loved

America, I know what your answer would be. You would all say 'Yes,' and I know you would mean it—every one of you.

"This morning I have a story for you about a little boy. He lived in a country far away, a country called Holland. But he loved Holland just as dearly as you do America. One day he showed that love by a brave thing he did."

9. THE STORY:

"A LITTLE BOY WHO LOVED HIS COUNTRY"

Far away across the sea there is a country called Holland. Holland lies below the sea level. To keep the sea from overflowing their country the people have built great walls of earth called dikes. They always take great care of these dikes. They know if once the sea should break through, their country would be destroyed, and all the people drowned. So even a tiny hole in the dike is always quickly repaired.

One afternoon two little boys went out to play. Their names were Hans and Dietrig. "Let's go over to the big dike, Hans," said Dietrig, "and get some flowers." "All right," said Hans, and they started off.

When they got to the dike Hans said, "I'm going to climb to the very top." "I'll stay here and gather the flowers," said Dietrig. But Hans had gone only a little way, when Dietrig saw a tiny stream of water. It was coming through the dike, bubbling as it came.

"Oh, Hans," called Dietrig, "you ought to see the funny bubbles." "Where," said Hans. "Show me the bubbles." And he began to scramble down the side of the dike. Too well he knew the danger if there should be a hole in the dike.

"There," said Dietrig. "See?" And he pointed to the tiny stream of water, bubbling from the hole.

Hans saw the hole. He knew at once what it meant. Something must be done quickly, or the great sea would

break through and destroy the whole land. He thrust his finger in the hole and the water stopped running.

"Run Dietrig," said Hans, "Run back home as fast as you can and tell father. I'll stay here and keep my finger in the hole while you're gone. Quick Dietrig! See the hole is bigger already." Dietrig turned and started for home. He went as fast as his little legs could run. Hans watched him till he was out of sight. He felt so alone by the big dike. It was growing dark. Night would soon be here. Would help come soon? He wondered if he could keep his finger in the hole very long. Already it had begun to pain, and every minute the pain got worse. His legs were cramped too. He felt sick all over.

As he sat there, close against the big dike, he heard the sea as it thundered and roared. It seemed to say, "I shall break through, I shall break through, I shall, I shall, I shall!"

"Oh, what if the sea should break through," he thought. He was just a little boy all alone, who was he to stop the great sea? And oh, how his arm ached, now the pain reached his shoulder. Now his whole body ached. Could he hold out?

But Hans was a brave boy. He set his teeth hard. He pushed his finger tighter still in the hole. He said right out loud, "I won't give up, I won't give up, I won't, I won't I *won't!*"

Again and again he looked to see if any one was coming to help. But no one was in sight. Only the great sea roared and thundered, "I shall break through, I shall, I shall, I shall!"

"No, no," said Hans, I will die first, I won't take my finger out. I won't let you in, I won't, I won't, I won't!"

And just then, oh joy, could it be? He saw lights. They came nearer. Now he heard men shouting, "We are coming, Hans! Hold on just a minute more." Then he saw his father. Next he felt his arms around him. Then he heard his voice, "Hans, my brave boy, my dear brave little son."

SALUTING OUR FLAGS

"We Pledge Allegiance to Our Flags."

Poor little Hans! He hardly had strength to take his finger out the hole. He fell into his father's arms. He was weak with pain and exhaustion. But he had never been so happy in all his life before. For he knew he had saved his country!

Superintendent (after story may show picture of Holland, if *appropriate* one has been secured, i.e. one showing the *dikes.*)

"We can not show our love for our country like this little boy perhaps. But we can all show we love our country every day we live. We talked about it one Sunday. Can you tell me what some of those ways were? I will ask —— (secures children's responses by calling on those most apt to remember previous talk.)

"Let us ask the Heavenly Father to help us."

Prayer (All heads bowed.)

"Heavenly Father please help us to show we love our country, every day we live. Amen."

February: Fourth Sunday.

THEME: "The Flag of God's Kingdom."

AIM: To help the children reverence and love the church flag, and to pledge their loyalty to it.

MATERIALS: Birthday calendar and stars. American flag. The church flag may be secured from Pilgrim Press, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. (Send for price list.)

(The flags for this occasion should be uniform in size.)

HYMN BOOKS: Church Hymnal—"First Book in Hymns and Worship," "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Hymn of Praise," No. 20

2. *Superintendent.* "This is God's Holy Day and we are here in his house this morning. Let us all repeat a Sunday Morning Prayer together." (Repeat after Superintendent with bowed heads.)

3. PRAYER

"Dear God this is your Holy Day." (See "First Book in Hymns and Worship," page 124. Another prayer may be used if thought best.)

Prayer Response "Lord of the Sunlight."

Superintendent. "We have talked about King David and the hymns he wrote for his people. As you all know these hymns are called Psalms, and are in our Bible. One day King David was thinking about the beautiful world that God had made. He thought about people he had never seen and places where he had never gone. He thought, "God made the world and everybody in the world. It all belongs to Him." Then he wrote these verses. Let us all repeat them together.

4. SCRIPTURE RECITATION

"The earth is Jehovah's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein.

For the Kingdom is Jehovah's; and He is the Ruler over the nations.

Blessed is the nation whose God is Jehovah. The people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

Superintendent. "America is one of these great nations of the world, whom Jehovah our Father has chosen to be his nation.

"Let us stand and sing our country's hymn—'America.'"

5. "AMERICA"

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us bring our gifts at this time to help other children in America who need our help." (Superintendent will adapt her words to the object of the offering)

6. OFFERTORY AND PRAYER

Offertory Music, "America."

Birthday Service for February (See previous program).

Superintendent. "We love and reverence the Flag of our Country, We love to sing about it. We love to salute it. I have a story for you this morning that speaks of another flag. It is called the 'Flag of God's Kingdom.' "

7. THE STORY:

"A Flag Story"

Up in the air, waving from the mast of a great battleship, was a beautiful flag. It was an American flag. It was there to tell every one who saw it to be good, brave, and true. It was there to wave a welcome to the people who came from other countries. It was there to help the sailors to have courage.

The flag was hoisted every morning. The sailors all came on the deck. They took off their hats and stood at attention. One of them fixed the lines and toggles. Another brought the flag from a safe place, and unfolded it very carefully. They hoisted the flag up, high in the air, to blow all day against the blue sky or the soft gray clouds.

At sunset the sailors all came back on deck again. They took off their hats and stood at attention. One of them untied the rope, and down, down came the flag. The sailor who had been allowed to lower it was very careful not to let it touch the deck. He folded the flag lovingly, and put it in a safe place for the night.

The sailors raised and lowered the flag every day, and every day the flag waved its message to them, "Red, white and blue, be good, brave and true. Red, white and blue, be good, brave and true," it said.

Once when Sunday came the battleship was anchored in a beautiful harbor. A boy and his father came and stood on a long pier, where they could see it. The boy's father had promised that he should see the sailors hoist the flag. It was a sunny morning, and as the boy and his father watched, the sailors all came on deck. They stood at attention. One of them brought two folded

flags. He unfolded a flag that was white with a blue cross. He fastened it to the lines and toggles, and up, up it went to the top of the mast. It waved and was very beautiful in the sunshine. Then the sailor unfolded the American flag, and up, up it went, as the sailors pulled the rope. It blew out against the blue sky, below the flag with the blue cross, and was very beautiful.

But the boy stamped his foot. "Father!" he said, "what flag is that? It has no right to fly above the stars and stripes—no flag has! They have made a mistake."

"That white flag with the blue cross," said the boy's father, "may fly above any flag in the world. It is the flag of God's kingdom. This is God's day, and the flag of his kingdom flies to tell everybody to remember His day and to go to His house. God's flag has the right to fly above other flags, because, unless you are first a good citizen of God's Kingdom, you cannot be a good American, or a good Englishman, or a good Frenchman".

"Or a good Italian," said the boy, "or a good citizen of any country."

Then the boy and his father saluted the white flag with the blue cross. They stood at attention with their hats in their hands and said, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to my Savior for whose kingdom it stands. One brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love".

Then they saluted the American flag. They said, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"Now," said the father, "We must do what the flags have told us to do. We will go to Sunday school, and we will remember to be good, brave and true, all day."

Then they walked together to God's house.[9]

Superintendent (after the story). "We have a flag that means the same thing that the ship flag means. It is our church flag (shows church flag). It has the three

[9] From "The Mayflower." Used by permission of The Pilgrim Press.

colors, the red, white and the blue, just like our American flag.

"Will two children come forward at this time, and we will salute each flag."

8. SALUTE TO THE FLAGS

(Two children come to front, chosen by superintendent. One holds the American Flag. One holds the Church Flag. They stand side by side.) Salute to American Flag.

All sing after salute, "Refrain" of "My Country's Flag"—Songs for Little People No. 69.

Superintendent (points to church flag.) "This is our church flag; the flag of God's kingdom. When we come to God's house and worship Him, we are true to our church flag."

Salute to Church flag.

(All) "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands, one brotherhood uniting all mankind in service and love."

(All sing) "Fling out the Banner" one verse (church hymnal). Prayer (repeat after Superintendent with bowed heads).

"Dear Heavenly Father, help us to be true to our country's flag, and our church flag, as long as we live. Amen."

CHAPTER VI

MARCH

THEME: "Jesus the Children's Friend."

In March, the worship programs seek to centre the children's thoughts on Jesus, their loving friend and helper.

It is hoped that the stories and verses used will already have become familiar through their class lessons. Because of this, the children will be able to retell the stories given, in their own words. In all cases where this is done, the child should first tell the story to his teacher, or the superintendent to be certain he has the names and incidents correct and in order. In many cases, the child will retell the story very briefly, but this should be no objection, provided the words and expressions are his own.

Opportunity is given in every program to hold the picture of Jesus before the Department. Children will always be found eager to do this simple act. This should always be done with the thought of showing love for Jesus and the children chosen to hold the picture, should be those who have earned this privilege, through attendance, attention during worship, work done in class, etc.

The song, "Jesus Loves Me," is used very frequently, but children love this hymn, and the melody is so simple, it will be found the very youngest children sing it readily and sense its meaning.

Beautiful pictures will add greatly to the programs. It would seem that two will be found indispensable, Hoffman's "The Christ" (802B.) and Plockhorst's

"YES, JESUS LOVES ME"
With picture of Jesus held before department.

"Christ Blessing Little Children." Since the 10-cent size from the Perry Picture Co. will be found large enough for the average Department, no superintendent will need to do without these helps for her program. The large $1.25 size (or 2 for $1.00) from the same source, will be found very beautiful and well worth the price asked. It should be noted and acted upon that the beauty of all pictures is greatly increased by careful trimming and mounting on card board and when possible, framing. The Primary International Closely Graded Lesson pictures will be found most helpful in retelling the stories given, wherever these are available.

The Palm Sunday program is given a place the last Sunday in March. Adjustments will be made each year, for whenever the Easter season comes. Even where other lessons are taught on that day it is well to have the worship associated with Palm Sunday. Some superintendents may decide to have but *one* story told in the Department for that day—using "The Children's Praise Song." A period of hand work in class will then follow the worship period. If this plan is followed it will be best to have the story told either by the superintendent herself or one of the teachers.

March: First Sunday.

THEME: "Jesus; His Kindness and Helpfulness."

AIM: To deepen the children's love for Jesus, and create a desire to be like Him.

MATERIALS: A picture of Jesus, as Hoffman's "Head of Christ" No. 805. Perry Picture Co., 10-cent size.

(A much larger picture of Christ, size 22 x 28 suited for framing, price $1.25, may be secured from the same source.)

HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People."

Song card from Jersey Music Co., East Orange, N. J. "A Whisper Song," price 5 cents.

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Jesus Loves Me," No. 18

2. *Superintendent.* "All this month we are to remember Jesus, the children's friend. We shall recite our verses, sing our hymns and retell our stories that show how kind and loving and helpful Jesus was, every day he lived. Our picture of Jesus will be before us every Sunday, and as we look at His kind and loving face, we will remember how he loves us, and pray the Heavenly Father we may be like Him.

"I will ask (mentioning some child) to come and hold Jesus' picture before us, while we sing about his love."

(Child comes forward, and holds picture before the Department. This act should be considered a great honor, and only given to one who has earned it.)

3. (Chord—all rise) "Jesus Loves Me," No. 18.

4. PRAYER—(All repeat with bowed heads)

"For Jesus born a little child,
We thank our Heavenly Father,
For Jesus loving, kind and mild,
We thank our Heavenly Father;
For Jesus Christ the children's Friend,
Who in our hearts his love doth send;
For Christ who helps us to the end,
We thank our Heavenly Father." [10]

Prayer response, sing softly—
"Yes Jesus loves me. Amen."

(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us repeat some of our Bible verses about Jesus."

[10] From "Sunday Songs for Little Children." The Westminster Press, Phila., Pa.

5. SCRIPTURE RECITATION

(These verses may be repeated after the superintendent, may be recited from memory, or may be given by the different classes as seems best.)

Superintendent. "What verse speaks of God's best gift to the world?"

(Response) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son."

Superintendent. "How did a great teacher speak of Jesus before Jesus had come?"

(Response) "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Superintendent. "What did the angel tell Mary His name should be?"

(Response) "Thou shalt call his name Jesus."

Superintendent. "What beautiful song did the angels sing when Jesus was born?"

(Response) "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased."

Superintendent. "Let us repeat the verse that tells what kind of a boy Jesus was."

(Response) "And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

Superintendent. "What did the Heavenly Father say when Jesus was baptized?"

(Response) "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

Song Response—"Yes Jesus loves me."

Superintendent. "Let us now repeat the children's prayer, that they have given us to use."

6. THE CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

(It will be very fitting if the children themselves formulate the prayer to be used this month. This they may do in a period other than the worship under the direction of the Superintendent. A Department prayer may also

be written during the class period, under the direction of some teacher and submitted by the class for the use of all. The following prayer was submitted by a class of third grade children under their teacher's direction, they having used it themselves that Sunday. This prayer is in no sense a model but will serve to show the type of responses that may be expected from children of this age.—"Dear Heavenly Father we thank You for our food, for our clothes, for our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters. We thank You for Jesus. Please help us to be kind and good, helpful and loving like Jesus. Amen.")

Superintendent. "We know that when we give to others, we make Jesus very happy. He loves all the children of the world. He is their loving friend and helper just as He is ours. Let us bring our gifts to help other children at this time."

7. THE OFFERTORY

Offertory Music, "I Want to Send a Whisper Song."

(After offering is brought forward by the children all sing with bowed heads—"The Whisper Song.")

8. *Superintendent.* "We have a verse about Jesus that we all love to repeat. It tells us how kind and helpful Jesus was. Let us all repeat it."

(All) "Jesus of Nazareth who went about doing good."

Superintendent. "We have a hymn that we sing, about Jesus, that speaks of the beautiful things that Jesus did. Let us all sing it."

(All sing) "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus."—No. 22, verse 1.

Superintendent. "We have just sung about the 'Scenes by the Wayside.' I will ask —— to come forward (or may stand by teacher) and tell us about one of these times, when Jesus healed a poor blind man."

9. "SCENES BY THE WAYSIDE" told by the children.

The Story, "Jesus and the Blind Man."

Superintendent. "We have another story, when Jesus was 'by the wayside.' I will ask —— to come forward and tell us about 'Jesus Healing the Ten Lepers.' "

The Story—"Jesus heals the Lepers."

(After the stories the superintendent may say—"We thank —— and —— who have told us these beautiful stories about Jesus. Let us thank the Heavenly Father for Jesus.")

(All repeat with bowed heads.)

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for Jesus who loved and helped so many people. We are glad because we know Jesus loves us. Amen."

Prayer Response sung softly, "Yes, Jesus loves me."

(The stories here given are to be told to the children, and retold by them to their teachers before the Worship Period. The stories will be given in the children's own words.)

"THE STORY OF TEN LEPERS"

In the country where Jesus lived, there were many, many sick people. There were no doctors to help people get well—so many were sick all their life long. One of the very worst diseases of that day was called leprosy. There was no cure for leprosy. People who had leprosy could give it to others. The law said: "If you are a leper, you must go away all by yourself—you cannot go near your family or friends. If any people come near you, you must cry, 'unclean, unclean,' to warn people away. It was a dreadful thing to be a leper."

One day ten lepers sat by the roadside begging. They were hungry and very miserable.

Said one, "I hope some one will give us money to-day. I ate my last piece of bread this morning."

"I wish I could see my dear little boy just once," said another, "but I dare not go home."

A third one said, "I heard some wonderful news yesterday. Some men were talking as they passed. They said, a man named Jesus was not afraid of lepers—that He made them *well.* They said He was going to pass this way to-day".

"Oh," said the first, "I don't believe He would stop and make *us* well. There is no hope for us—*nobody* can make a leper well."

"I wish He would come," said the other, "I would *beg* Him to try and heal me".

Just then, a company of men were seen coming—"Oh look, look" said the first leper, "I believe one of those men is Jesus—that one with the kind, good face. Let us call aloud for help, He may hear and heal us."

Immediately each leper raised his voice—"Jesus, Master, have mercy." Jesus looked at them with loving sympathy. He said, "Go show yourselves to the Priest."

"Let us do as He says" said the lepers. They turned to go, and as they did so they were made well. They could hardly believe it. They forgot all about Jesus. They forgot to thank Him, they hurried away never once looking back. All but one, he remembered Jesus. He was just as eager to get home as the others, but he could not go till he had thanked Jesus for making him well. He ran back. He kneeled down before Jesus. He said, "Thank you, Jesus, for making me well".

Jesus felt very sad that only one was grateful, that only *one* came back to thank him. But He spoke very gently to the man kneeling at his feet. He said, "Arise, thy faith hath made thee well."

And the man went away so happy. He never forgot Jesus and all his life long he was glad he went back and thanked Him for making him well.

"Jesus and the Blind Man."

Long, long ago, near the great city of Jericho, lived a poor blind man named Bartimaeus. Because he was blind,

he could not work, he could not earn money to buy food or clothes. So day after day, and all day long he would sit by the roadside and beg from the people who passed by. Over and over he would say, "Please help me; I am blind." The people who lived in Jericho learned to know Bartimaeus. As they passed him, they would say, "There sits poor blind Bartimaeus by the roadside," and sometimes they would throw him some money or a little food.

One day, Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside as he did every day. He felt very sad. He thought "Of what use am I—a poor blind man. I cannot work to earn food. All my life I must beg. Oh, if only I could see! Then I would work hard every day. I would earn money and buy my food. I would buy some new clothes. I would live like other men—if only I could *see*."

Suddenly he heard the sound of tramping feet. There were people coming. He listened—now he could hear voices—*many* voices. A crowd of people was near. Now they began to pass the place where he sat.

"What does this great crowd mean?" he asked.

"Don't you know," said a man. "Jesus the Master is passing by to-day. He is on His way to Jerusalem."

"Jesus," said Bartimaeus. "Why, He is the man who makes people well—I've heard He can make blind people see. Oh, if He would only help *me*. I will call to Him. Perhaps He will hear and help me." He raised his voice and called aloud, "Jesus, Jesus, have mercy on me."

Some people standing near said, "Keep still, Bartimaeus, Jesus can't stop to help *you*."

But Bartimaeus kept on calling—"Jesus, Jesus, have mercy on me."

Then a wonderful thing happened, Jesus stood still and looked right at Bartimaeus. He said, "Bring that poor man here to me." "Have courage Bartimaeus," said his friends. "Jesus has heard you. He wants you to come to Him."

Bartimaeus jumped to His feet. But he did not know

which way to go. He put out his hands and tried to feel his way to Jesus. Then, one of his friends caught his hand and led him to where Jesus stood, waiting for him. Jesus looked at him with loving sympathy. He said—"What is it you want me to do for you?"

Bartimaeus said, "Please Jesus, make me to see." Jesus said "Receive thy sight."

Bartimaeus opened his eyes. He saw the crowds of people. He saw the roadside where he had sat just a few moments ago. He saw the glad faces of his friends.

But best of all he saw Jesus, Jesus who had given him his sight. He was no longer poor, blind Bartimaeus. He could hardly believe it. All he could think of to do was to follow Jesus who had done this wonderful thing. So when Jesus turned to go, Bartimaeus followed him joyfully, praising and thanking Him for what He had done.

March: Second Sunday.

THEME: "Jesus Receives Little Children."

AIM: To help the children feel that Jesus loves all children, that He loves them. To awaken more love, on their part, for Jesus.

MATERIAL: Plockhorst's "Christ Blessing Little Children," Perry Picture Company, 10-cent size (or $1.25 size 22 x 28 inches. $2.00 for two or more.)

HYMN BOOK: A "First Book in Hymns and Worship"—"Songs for Little People." Song card—"Whisper Song."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP, "Jesus loves me," No. 18

2. *Superintendent.* "Last Sunday we talked of one, who, when he was on earth was everybody's friend and helper. He told beautiful stories, made sick people well, and helped everybody everywhere he went. And to-day He loves us just as much as He did the people when He lived on earth—will you tell me His name?" ("Jesus.")

Superintendent. "Yes, it is Jesus, our Friend and Helper, I will ask —— (mentioning some child who merits this honor) to come forward and hold Jesus' picture while we sing about Him." (Chord—all rise.)

3. HYMN—"Jesus loves me," No. 18. "Songs for Little People"

Superintendent. "Let us all thank the Heavenly Father for Jesus." (All repeat with bowed heads.)

4. "FOR JESUS BORN A LITTLE CHILD." (See last Sunday's program)

Prayer Response. "Yes, Jesus loves me"
(Chord—all seated.)
Superintendent. "Let us repeat together some of our Bible verses about Jesus."

5. SCRIPTURE RECITATION. (The verses of last Sunday's program may be given at this time, either in whole or in part, as the superintendent thinks best.)

Superintendent. "Let us repeat the verse that speaks of the loving acts of Jesus."
(All repeat) "Jesus of Nazareth who went about doing good."
Superintendent. "We have a hymn that we sing about Jesus, and the wonderful things He did—let us sing it now."
Hymn—"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," No. 22, one verse.
("First Book in Hymns and Worship.")
Superintendent. "Let us repeat our Prayer about Jesus." (The children's prayer, or may repeat after superintendent.)

6. PRAYER. "Our dear Heavenly Father we thank You for Jesus the children's Friend.

"We are glad that He was born a little baby in Bethlehem; that He grew to be a helpful, obedient boy; that when He became a man, He went about doing good, helping everybody, everywhere He went.

"We thank You that He is our Friend and Helper too. Help us to be like Jesus, loving, kind and helpful. Amen."

7. THE OFFERING SERVICE. (See last Sunday's program)

Superintendent. "There is a beautiful verse we repeat about Jesus, that shows how He loved little children. Let us all repeat it."

8. (All) "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not."

Superintendent. "Let us sing our hymn that tells us the story of Jesus and the children."

9. HYMN No. 28, 2 verses.

(Chord—all rise and sing.)
(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "I will ask —— to come forward and tell us the story about Jesus blessing little children."

10. THE STORY:

"JESUS RECEIVES LITTLE CHILDREN"

It had been such a busy day for Jesus. He had helped so many people. Some had come to Him sick—he had made them well. Many came to talk with Him. He had helped them. All day long, the people crowded close to Him—just to look in His kind and loving face—Jesus did not send one away.

"Master," said John, "you are so tired. Here is an old well. Sit down and rest and I will get you a cool drink of water." Jesus sat down to rest, but the people did not go home.

Then, a man spoke to Peter. Peter was one of Jesus'

friends. "There are some mothers here with their little children. They have come a long way. Some of them are very little children. They just want to come near enough to see Jesus. I told them to go home, but the mothers will not go."

"I will speak to them," said Peter. "They can't see Jesus to-day. He is too tired." Peter went to the mothers. The mothers saw him coming—they said, "Here comes one of Jesus' friends. Let us ask him to help us get our little children near enough to see Jesus. "Oh, Sir," they said, "we have come a long way, we want our little children to see Jesus. But they are too little to see Him from here. Won't you help us to get near Him?" "We want to see Jesus," said the children, "please help us to see Jesus." "Just look," said a little boy, "I picked these flowers for Jesus. Can't I give them to Him?"

"I'm very sorry," said Peter, but Jesus is too busy to see children. There are some great men here who must see Him." Come again to-morrow, and perhaps He will not be so busy." "But we have come such a long way. We cannot come again to-morrow," said the mothers. "I'm very sorry," said Peter. "but Jesus cannot see you to-day." Poor little children, they were so disappointed. The tears would come! "Mother, can't we see Jesus?" they said. Just then John, another friend of Jesus, came near. He spoke kindly to the mothers. He said—"Jesus has just heard about your little children. He says, 'Suffer the little children to come and forbid them not.' He wants to see them."

"Oh, mother," said the children, "we can go to Jesus." The great crowds of people parted left to right—so the mothers and children could go straight to Jesus. The mothers lifted their little children in their arms. The other children ran on ahead so happy to go to Jesus. The great men who wanted to see Jesus stood aside.

Jesus held out His arms. He took one of the dear babies and held her on His lap. Some of the children

crowded close to Him and looked up in His face. The little boy who had brought his flowers, gave them to Jesus. They made Jesus very happy. He thanked the little boy for bringing them.

After that He told them a beautiful story. The mothers all stood near, and heard it too. How happy they were to see their little children with Jesus. They said, "Our children will never forget this wonderful day."

By and by it was time to go home, so Jesus laid His hand on the children's heads and blessed them. Then the children said good-bye to Jesus and went away with their mothers.

But all their lives they remembered Jesus and how kind and loving he looked as he said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not."

Superintendent (after the story) shows Plockhorst's picture of "Christ Blessing Little Children." Let the children tell what they see in this picture—as "the well," "the sheep," "the mothers," "little boy with flowers," "the baby in Jesus' arms"—then all sing.

Hymn No. 22 second verse. (First Book in Hymns and Worship.) Prayer Response—

"Heavenly Father we thank You for Jesus, who loves us. Amen."

March: Third Sunday.

THEME: "Jesus Teaching Love for One Another."

AIM: To deepen the children's love for Jesus and their desire to perform deeds of kindness and helpfulness for one another.

MATERIALS: Pictures of "Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet," "Jesus Healing the Blind Man"; "Jesus Healing the Lepers," "Jesus Stilling the Storm"; and the "Children's Praise Song," all secured from Primary Picture Sets. Grades II and III, International closely graded lessons. Plockhorst's "Christ Blessing Little Children" and Hoffman's "Head of Christ" used previous Sunday.

HYMN BOOK: "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

Song Card—"Whisper Song."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "May Jesus Christ be Praised," No. 88

2. *Superintendent*—(Holds picture of Jesus)

"When Jesus lived on earth, He was everybody's friend. If people were in trouble they always said, 'Let us go to Jesus, He will help us.' If people were sick they would say—'We will go to Jesus, He will make us well.' And He always did. Little children loved Him. They went willingly to Him, and Jesus held them in His arms and told them wonderful stories. They loved Jesus. We love Jesus too. I will ask —— to come and hold the picture of Jesus, while we sing a praise song to Him."

(Child comes forward, and holds the picture of Jesus so all may see it, while children sing.)

3. HYMN—"May Jesus Christ be Praised," No. 88

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.)

(If this hymn is unfamiliar, "Jesus Loves Me" may be sung.)

4. PICTURE STORIES

Superintendent. "We have learned of many helpful acts that Jesus did. I have some pictures to show you, and after you have looked at them, I will ask you to tell me what they are about. (Let there be no guessing on the part of the children. If superintendent feels the picture will not recall the story, she will interpret the picture herself.)

Shows picture of "Jesus Healing the Blind Man" and says, "Here is a 'Scene by the Wayside.' What kind act is Jesus doing here?" Shows picture of Jesus and the lepers and again asks "And whom is Jesus helping here?"

"Let us sing our hymn, which speaks of these scenes by the way side."

Hymn 22 "Tell me the stories of Jesus," verse 1.

Superintendent—shows "Christ Blessing Little Children." "Will —— (mentioning some child sure to know) please tell us what beautiful act Jesus is doing here?

"Let us all repeat the words Jesus said."

(All) "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not."

Superintendent. "Let us sing the second verse of our hymn."

(All sing) "Tell me the stories of Jesus," verse 2.

Superintendent—shows "The Children's Praise Song."

(If this story should be unfamiliar at this time, superintendent may say—"Once Jesus was riding along on a young colt, with some of His friends. The children were so happy to see Him, they sang a beautiful song and waved palm branches in His honor. Let us all sing our verse that tells us about it."

(All sing) "Tell me the stories of Jesus" verse 3.

Superintendent—shows picture of "Stilling the Storm" asks—"What wonderful thing did Jesus do here? What words did He say?" ("Peace be Still.") "Let us sing our verse about Jesus stilling the storm."

(All sing) "Tell me the stories of Jesus" verse 4.

(If not possible to show these pictures in connection with this hymn, it may be sung without them.)

Superintendent. "Let us thank the Heavenly Father for Jesus. Let us pray."

Prayer (repeated after superintendent with bowed heads.)

"Our loving Heavenly Father, we thank You for Jesus. We thank You for the beautiful stories we know about Him. We are glad He is our loving friend and helper, just as He was so long ago. Please help us to be like Jesus, kind and helpful. Amen."

Superintendent. "Jesus said, 'Freely ye received, freely

give.'—Let us show our love by bringing Him our gifts at this time—to help—(mentioning object.)

4. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Offertory Music—"Whisper Song." All sing "Whisper Song" after offering is taken.

Superintendent. "Jesus loved His friends and was always ready to help them. One day He did something to show them they must be ready to love and help one another. It is the story of Jesus teaching a new commandment. ——— (naming child) will tell it for us at this time." Child comes forward and retells in his own words the story which he has previously told his teacher. (If some other story about Jesus is preferred, superintendent will have it told at this time.)

5. THE STORY:

"JESUS TEACHING A NEW COMMANDMENT"

It had been a long hard day for Jesus. He had been talking to many people; making sick people well, and helping everybody He could.

Now evening was coming on. He had promised to meet His disciples and eat supper with them in a place just outside of Jerusalem.

Earlier in the day, Peter and John had gone on ahead to get the supper ready. The room where they were to gather was a large one. It was one where Jesus and His disciples had often met before.

As evening began to draw near, Jesus met the ten disciples and they all walked together toward Jerusalem.

"The Master is tired," said James. "He has had a very hard day."

"I am tired too," said Judas. "I too have been busy all day long. I shall surely be glad when we can sit down to supper and rest. My feet feel so hot and tired, walking in these sandals, along this dusty road. I shall feel better when the servant has bathed my feet."

"There will be no servant there to bathe our feet," said Philip. "We will have to do without that to-night." "One of us might do it for the others," said Nathaniel.

"No indeed," said Judas. "I would never do that. "Nor would I," said Philip. So talking among themselves, they came at last to Jerusalem.

Here they turned down a quiet street, and walking a short distance were soon in the room where Peter and John were waiting for them.

In one corner of the room was a large copper basin and pitcher and several jars of water.

No servant was waiting to bathe their feet, so they all sat down at the table.

"I wish I might bathe the Master's feet," said John. "He has walked so far to-day, and looks very tired."

But just at that moment, Jesus got up, laid aside His long outer coat, and going over to where the water was, He poured some in the basin, and brought it over to where the disciples were sitting. "Can it be He is going to bathe *our* feet," thought the disciples?

Jesus was very tired, but he did not think of Himself. He thought only of how much His disciples needed His help. And so from one to another He went, bathing their tired, dusty feet.

Oh, how ashamed the disciples all felt. Not one of them had been willing to do this for the others and Jesus, their Master, had done it for every one of them.

Then Jesus sat down with them once more at the table.

He said: "Perhaps you have been surprised to have me do this for you. But I did it because I loved you, every one, and I know you needed my help. And now I want to give you a new commandment. "That ye love one another as I have loved you."

The disciples never forgot that commandment, nor the lesson Jesus taught them that day.

And always, after that, they tried to show their love for each other, by doing all the kind and helpful things they could.

Superintendent (after story) says—"We thank ——— for this beautiful story about Jesus (shows picture of Jesus washing disciples' feet). "Let us all repeat the new commandment Jesus gave. 'That ye love one another, as I have loved you.' "

Superintendent. "Let us ask the Heavenly Father to help us to do this." (All repeat with bowed heads.)

"Dear Heavenly Father please help us to love and help one another as Jesus did. Amen."

March: Fourth Sunday.

(For Palm Sunday)

THEME: "Jesus Receiving the Children's Praise."

AIM: To deepen the children's love for Jesus and increase the desire to honor Him.

MATERIALS: Pictures—"Christ's Entry into Jerusalem." Plockhorst—$1.25, 22 x 28, or secure one for each child, 1 cent each, Perry Picture Co., Malden, Mass.

Hoffman's "Head of Christ," used previous Sundays.

"Christ Blessing Little Children."

Birthday calendar with gold stars.

HYMN BOOKS: "Songs for Little People." "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP—"Jesus Loves Me," No. 18

2. *Superintendent* (Holding picture of Jesus)

"We love the Heavenly Father
Who sent His only Son,
Here to live upon the earth,
To save us, every one.

He came a tiny Baby,
But grew both strong and tall,
Helping every one to know,
He loved them, one and all.

He walked upon the mountain,
He lived beside the sea;
Sick and lame were helped by Him,
The blind He made to see.

He now lives with His Father,
But still can help us here;
For He sees and hears and loves,
The children far and near.[11]

3. "Let us all sing about the love of Jesus while —— (mentioning child) holds Jesus' picture for us." (Child comes forward and holds the picture before the Department while all sing "Jesus loves me.")

Superintendent. "I will ask (mentioning child) to come forward and hold another picture for us. (Child comes forward and holds picture of "Christ Blessing Little Children," used previous Sunday.)

Superintendent. "What beautiful words did Jesus say about the children?"

(All repeat) "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not."

Superintendent. "Let us sing our hymn, that tells the story of this picture."

4. HYMN, "I Think When I Read" No. 27, two verses.

(Chord—all rise and sing)

(Chord—all seated)

Superintendent. "Let us thank the Heavenly Father for Jesus. Let us all pray."

5. PRAYER—(Repeated after superintendent—all heads bowed.)

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for Jesus the children's friend.

[11] From "Carols." Used by permission of the Leyda Pub. Co., Wapello, Iowa.

"We are glad that He was born a little Baby in Bethlehem; that He grew to be a helpful and obedient boy; that when He became a man He went about doing good, helpful to everybody. We are glad that He loved the children and took them in His arms and blessed them. We are glad that He loves all the children of the world."

Song Response very softly, "Yes, Jesus loves me. Amen."

Superintendent. "Jesus said 'Freely ye received, freely give.' Let us bring our gifts at this time to show our love."

6. THE OFFERING AND BIRTHDAY SERVICE.

Offertory Music "Whisper Song."
All sing "Whisper Song."
Birthday Service for March.
(See Birthday Prayer for December.)

Superintendent. "I wonder if you can tell me what this Sunday is called. Yes, it is *Palm* Sunday." (Some children in every group will know this. If superintendent is in doubt, however, to avoid any "guessing"—a simple statement as, "To-day, we call Palm Sunday" may be used.) "We have sung this morning of how Jesus loved the children, and took them in His arms and blessed them. I am going to tell you a story of how the children showed their love for Jesus one day."

(If it seems best a pupil may tell this story, in his own words, having previously told it to his teacher)

7. THE STORY:

"THE CHILDREN'S PRAISE SONG"

Once there lived two little children. Their names were Mary and Joseph. Mary and Joseph had a dear kind mother. Often when they were going to bed, she would tell them wonderful stories about Jesus.

But the story they loved best of all, was the one where Jesus called little children to Him and said—"Suffer little

children to come unto me and forbid them not." One night when their mother had finished this story Mary said—"Oh mother, I wish Joseph and I could have been there! Do you think *we* will ever see Jesus?"

One Spring morning Mary and little Joseph were playing near their home. Suddenly Joseph said, "Oh Mary look! See all these people coming. See, they are coming right past our home." Mary looked. She saw many people, fathers, mothers and children. They were coming from Jerusalem. Some carried flowers. Many had branches of green in their hands. They all looked very happy.

"Let us tell mother," said Mary. They ran to the house—they called, "Mother, mother, see all the people coming past our house. See the flowers they have—see the green branches; where are they going mother?"

Their mother hurried to the roadside, where the people passed. Joseph and Mary pressed close to her side. A young girl passed near them. "Please tell me," said the mother, "where you are all going—for whom are these flowers—these branches of green leaves—why do you all look so happy?" "We have just heard such wonderful news," said the young girl. "Jesus is coming to Jerusalem. He is on His way now. Many of His friends are with Him. We go to meet and welcome Him." And she passed on.

"Oh mother, is Jesus coming?" said Mary. "May we go too, and meet Him?" "Oh please, mother let us go meet Jesus" said little Joseph.

"I am afraid you will get very tired," said their mother. "We may have a long way to walk. The sun is very hot, the road is dusty".

"Oh no, mother, we won't get tired," said Mary. "I will help little Joseph. Please mother, let us go."

"Very well, children, we will go meet Jesus," said their mother.

"And I will take Him some of our flowers," said little

Joseph. Soon they were on their way with the other people to meet Jesus.

Mary and little Joseph walked close beside their mother. Joseph held his flowers tight in one hand. They were every one for Jesus. "Do you think He will like my flowers mother?" he said. "I know He will," said his mother.

By and by, they saw a crowd of people coming. They came nearer and nearer. It was Jesus and His friends! Jesus was riding on a young colt. All His friends walked. "Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming," called the people. They were so happy they began to sing. Many ran on ahead to meet Him, they were so happy. They waved their branches, they threw their flowers in His path—many threw their coats down for Jesus to ride over. "Hosannah" they cried. "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Little Joseph held his flowers high for Jesus to see. As Jesus rode by where he was, he threw them right in Jesus' path—Jesus saw the flowers. He smiled and looked so happy. It made Him so glad to see how they all loved Him. So Jesus and all His many friends travelled on together toward Jerusalem. Mary and little Joseph went back home with their mother. But they never forgot the wonderful day they went to meet Jesus, and how happy they made Him.

(After story):

(If picture is used superintendent shows it to the children, or distributes one small one to each child. To avoid any possible confusion in this case, these should have been given the teachers beforehand, who quietly pass one to each child. These may be mounted later and taken home.)

The picture should be carefully examined and its beauty brought out through questioning by superintendent as—

"Whom do you see?"

"What are the children doing to show their love for Jesus?"

"What beautiful song are they singing?"

"How did this make Jesus feel?" (Happy.)

"Yes, we see how happy and loving He looks as He rides along. When we sing our hymns and repeat our verses about Jesus to-day, it makes Him very happy too. Let us all look at Jesus' picture, and repeat the words the children sang that first Palm Sunday.

(All repeat) "Hosannah, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Superintendent. "Let us sing our hymn that tells this story."

(All sing:) "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," verse 3.

Prayer—(Repeated after superintendent)

"Dear Heavenly Father, we are glad the children made Jesus happy on the first Palm Sunday, and that He hears us sing to-day. Amen."

(If no Palm Sunday pictures are used, superintendent may begin after the story with the question, "How do you think Jesus felt, when the children sang Him that beautiful song?" (Happy.)

"Yes, happy, and when we sing our hymns," etc.

CHAPTER VII

APRIL

THEME: "God's Beautiful World at Springtime."

Much is done in the day schools to call the children's attention to the beauties in nature. It remains, however, for the church school to emphasise this beauty, and associate it in all the children's thinking, with the Heavenly Father, as the Giver and Creator of this beautiful world. The April program are planned to give this added emphasis.

The Easter program is given a place on the first Sunday, and adjustment to suit the calendar year will be made by the superintendent.

The coming of new life, with the return of Spring, is associated with Jesus and the Resurrection Day, and the thought given that nothing ever dies, but that all "Will live again".

Pictures and flowers play an important part in all Spring Programs. The gift of flowers, bought with the children's own money, and given by them to a person or people known to them, should be encouraged whenever possible.

Current magazines often furnish suitable pictures in flower and nature subjects. These should all be carefully trimmed and mounted on light weight cardboard before use.

Some class in the Department should be encouraged to make and present a Spring poster. Suggestions and patterns for such may often be found in the "Elementary Teacher" (14 Beacon St., Boston, Massachusetts). Dennison's crêpe paper will furnish flowers, birds, and butter-

flies, which cut out and mounted will combine most effectively.

In every way and by every device that can be used, the atmosphere of the Department should be one of joy and beauty, and the children made to feel we are alive and happy in God's beautiful world at Springtime.

April: First Sunday.

THEME: "The First Easter Day."

AIM: To help the children realise the power of Jesus who rose from the dead and help them feel the joy and gladness of that first Easter Day.

MATERIALS: An Easter lily, or other flowers, to make the room attractive. A Spring poster; Pictures: "The Christ," Hoffman; "He is Risen"; Plockhorst, No. 815 (10c. size Perry Picture Co.) For small Departments, "Easter Morning," No. 809, Plockhorst, 2c. size, or other appropriate Easter pictures.

HYMN BOOKS: "Songs for Little People." "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Spring Song," from "Songs Without Words," Mendelssohn

2. *Superintendent*

"Today is a happy one for us all. It is the glad Eastertime. The flowers speak to us this morning. They tell us Spring is here and all the world is happy. It is God, our Heavenly Father, who planned the Springtime, to make us happy.

"Let us sing our Easter hymn, 'God is Love.' "

3. HYMN NO. 76

"God is Love," from "Songs for Little People."

Superintendent. "There are verses in our Bible that speak of this joyous Springtime. Let us all repeat them."

A SPRING BIRTHDAY POSTER

4. SCRIPTURE RECITATION

"For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone,
The flowers appear on the earth,
The time of the singing of birds has come."

Superintendent. "Let us all thank the Heavenly Father for the happy Springtime."

5. A PRAYER FOR EACH SEASON, NO. 10

"Songs for Little People," verse 1.

Superintendent. "I am thinking of so many things the Heavenly Father sends us at Eastertime. Will you name some of them?"

(Superintendent leads the children in prayer, including the Springtime gifts mentioned by the children. The prayer may take this form.)

6. PRAYER

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy care of the flowers and birds all winter long.

"We thank Thee for the Springtime, when they come back again.

"We thank Thee for the happy Eastertime, and for the new life we see everywhere.

"We thank Thee for Jesus and the first Easter so long ago.

"Bless our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, and give us all a happy Easter Day."

"Our Father" (The Lord's Prayer.)

Superintendent. "For some weeks we have been thinking and talking about this happy Eastertime. We have given our money to buy these beautiful Easter flowers. Some of our flowers we have placed near Jesus' picture to show our love for Him. For a wonderful thing happened to Jesus on that first Easter Sunday. The story is

in our Bible. —— (mentioning child) will come forward and repeat it for us."

7. RECITATION: Mark 16: 1-7

Superintendent: "Let us all sing our hymn that tells this story."

Hymn: "The First Easter," No. 89, "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.)

8. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Presentation of the Easter Gifts.

Superintendent. "We love to think that our gifts make Jesus happy. Let us bring our offerings at this time."

Offertory Music No. 29, "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

(Offering brought forward, children all sing No. 30, in "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

Presentation of the Easter flowers.

(These flowers have been purchased with the children's money, either with a special gift or with some of their regular offering money. The children have decided beforehand to whom the flowers shall go, as to people who are sick, to some hospital or home, preferably *children's.* Some nurse or physician or responsible person is present to whom the children will present their gift, through one child chosen to represent the Department. The child presents the flowers in his own words. If possible, the children may take the flowers themselves after the church school service. The superintendent will adapt her remarks to the plan.)

The gift of the Spring Poster.

Superintendent. "We have a class who have prepared a gift to make our Department beautiful. Will they bring it forward at this time?"

(The poster brought forward. The superintendent

thanks the class and fastens poster up before Department.)

(In many church schools children are given small potted plants to take home. These may be given at this time. When all have received their flowers the superintendent may say: "These flowers are given you to remind you of our glad Easter Sunday, and to help you make your home beautiful. Let us all hold our flowers up while we sing.)

Hymn No. 70, "Easter Day," "Songs for Little People."

Superintendent. "Shall we say 'Thank You' to the Heavenly Father for our flowers and our happy Easter time?"

(All sing with bowed heads, "Father We Thank Thee." Refrain No. 52.)

9. *Superintendent:*

"Miss ——— (mentioning one of the teachers) is prepared to tell us the story of that first Easter Day. She will come forward at this time."

(The story that follows is given with the thought that the Resurrection Story will be the only one told in the Department this Sunday. If thought best, it may be omitted at this time, and program close with offering service.)

10. THE STORY:

"THE STORY OF THE FIRST EASTER DAY"

Long, long ago there lived in this world some one who was everybody's friend and helper. If people were sick, He made them well; if they were lame, He made them walk; if they were blind, He made them see. He was never too busy or too tired to help people. He told such wonderful stories that people came for miles to hear Him. Little children loved Him, they ran to Him and sat on his lap and listened to the beautiful stories He

told. This some one was Jesus, the good, kind, loving, unselfish, helpful Jesus.

Many, many people loved Jesus. Yet there were some who did not love Him. They could not do the wonderful things Jesus did. These people did not love Him. They said, "We will kill Jesus." So one day they took Jesus and put Him to death.

Oh, what a sad, sad day that was! Jesus' friends took His dear body. They wrapped it in pure white linen. Then they laid it carefully away in a room in the side of a rock. This room was called a tomb, and this tomb was in a beautiful garden. At the door of the tomb was a great heavy rock, which was rolled across the doorway.

After Jesus' friends had laid His body in the tomb, they went home in great sorrow. What should they do without Jesus, their kind, loving friend? All the next day they talked about Him and how they loved Him.

The next day was Sunday. Some of Jesus' friends said, "Let us go to the garden, where we laid the body of Jesus." Two of these friends were named Mary and Salome. They said, "Let us take with us some of our most precious spices and perfumes to lay near Him." So they started out.

It was a beautiful morning. The sun was just coming up. Flowers bloomed; birds sang in the trees. But Jesus' friends were so sad, not even the sunshine or the birds or the flowers could make them happy.

As they walked along Mary said, "I wonder who will roll that great heavy stone away from the door? We can never move it ourselves."

Soon they came to the garden. They hurried to the tomb, where they had laid Jesus. To their great surprise they found the stone rolled away and the body of Jesus gone.

What should they do? They looked again. There sat a young man in a pure white robe. It was an angel. The angel said, "Be not afraid, I know whom you seek.

But Jesus is not here. He is risen as He said He would. Go quickly and tell all His friends."

The women turned from the tomb and ran to tell the good news. All but Mary. She stayed at the tomb. She could not believe the glad news. So, as she stood there, she wept.

Suddenly, some one spoke to her. "Woman, why do you weep?" said a voice. It was Jesus. But Mary thought it was the gardener speaking. She said, "Oh, sir, please tell me where you have taken the body of Jesus."

Then Jesus said to her, "Mary." Then Mary knew it was Jesus speaking to her. She turned with joy and said, "Master." After Jesus had talked with Mary, He told her to go tell all His friends He was alive, and they too would see Him.

Mary turned with joy and ran to spread the glad news everywhere, that Jesus was alive.

At first people could not believe it. But again and again Jesus came to them. They saw Him, they talked to Him. Finally, all His friends knew Jesus was indeed alive. He had risen from the dead, even as He said He would. Never before in all their lives had they been so joyously happy. It was the first Eastertime.

Many, many years have come and gone since that first wonderful Easter morning. But ever since that day the sun shines warm and bright on Easter day; the little green leaves are seen on the trees, the flowers awake from their sleep and bloom again, the birds come back and sing once more.

Fathers, mothers and children, sing Easter songs of joy and happiness. Everything and everybody is happy. For Jesus is alive, He lives and loves us forever.

(After the story, the Easter picture is shown; just one picture, the most beautiful available.)

Superintendent. "Let us all sing our Easter hymn,

"'Tis Blessed Easter Day.'" (Other suitable Easter carol may be substituted.)

Easter Carol No. 71, "Songs for Little People."

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.)

(The class period may follow, during which time Easter pictures may be mounted or Easter booklets made to take home to parents.)

April: Second Sunday.

THEME: "The First Easter Day." (Retold.)

AIM: To strengthen the impression of Easter joy and gladness and increase the children's love for Jesus.

MATERIALS: Pictures and Poster used previous Sunday. Flowers if possible.

HYMN BOOKS: "Songs for Little People." "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. The same as last Sunday

2. *Superintendent*

(Repeats reverently) "All the Beauty, Out of Doors," from "First Book in Hymns and Worship," page 5.

"Let us all rise and sing these words."

3. HYMN

"On a Spring Day," No. 5. "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

(Chord—all rise.)

Superintendent: "Let us repeat the verses from our Bible that speak of all this beauty."

4. SCRIPTURE RECITATION

"Lo, the Winter is past,
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth,
The time of the singing of birds is come.

Superintendent. " 'Tis God, our Heavenly Father, who sends us the beautiful Spring; the glad Eastertime. Let us sing our Easter hymn that speaks of His love."

5. HYMN

"God is Love," No. 76, "Songs for Little People." (Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us thank the Heavenly Father for all His gifts. Let us all pray."

6. PRAYER

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for all Thy good gifts to us. We thank Thee for the Springtime; for the flowers, the birds, the green grass, the sunshine; the blue sky. We thank Thee for our happy playtimes out of doors. Help us to please Thee every day. Help us to be like Jesus, kind and good, who taught us this prayer, 'Our Father' " (The Lord's Prayer.)

Superintendent. "We have just thanked the Heavenly Father for His gifts to us. Let us bring our gifts to Him at this time."

7. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Offertory Music No. 29, "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

Offering brought forward, children all sing No. 30 in "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

(If children took the gifts of the flowers themselves the previous Sunday, they may come forward at this time and give a report in their own words of what they did. Superintendent will help them, if necessary, by questioning.)

Superintendent. "Last Sunday we listened to the Easter story about Jesus, in our Bible. ——— (naming child) will repeat it again for us at this time."

8. RECITATION

Mark 16:1-7.

(Child comes forward and repeats the Bible recitation of previous Sunday.)

Superintendent: "Let us sing our hymn that tells this story."

9. "THE FIRST EASTER," No. 89

"First Book in Hymns and Worship."

(An Easter picture may here be shown, that tells this story, as one from Primary Picture Set, International Closely Graded Lessons, or "Easter Morning," Plockhorst.)

Superintendent: "One of our children is prepared to tell us the Easter story in his (her) own words. Will he please come forward at this time?"

(Child comes forward and retells the Easter story of last Sunday, having previously told it to his teacher.)

10. "THE FIRST EASTER DAY"

(The story that follows was one retold by a third grade Primary boy, after hearing the story given in previous program. This story is not intended as a model, but simply to show the type of expression that may be looked for with this age.)

"THE RESURRECTION DAY"

Long, long ago, when Jesus was on earth, the people loved Him very, very much. But some people did not like Him at all, because they thought He might do something to them. So they put Him to death and they put Him in a big tomb and put a rock over it.

Then they went home very sadly and thought all about it. Then Mary and Salome thought they might go and put spices and some flowers on the tomb, so they went there and wondered how they could get the stone off the

tomb. There sat a man inside and he said, "Jesus is not here, He is risen. You tell all your friends that Jesus has returned."

Mary sat weeping over the tomb. She thought Jesus was gone, and while she was weeping she heard a voice, "Mary, Mary." She looked right away and there was Jesus, and Jesus said to her, "I have risen just as I told you I was going to. Tell all your friends I have." Jesus began to go around to their houses and tell them stories just as He had before, so they really knew He had risen. So after this time they always had an Easter time.

(After the story superintendent may thank the child for his story, then say, "Let us sing our Easter hymn that tells us *Jesus lives.* Will ——— (naming child) please come forward and hold Jesus' picture for us, while we sing?")

11. EASTER CAROL, NO. 71

"Songs for Little People" (or other suitable Carol).
(Chord—all rise and sing.)
(Chord—all seated.)

12. PRAYER

"Our Father, we are glad for the first Easter Day. We thank You for our happy Easter time. We thank You for Jesus. Amen."

April: Third Sunday.

THEME: "God's Beautiful World at Springtime."

AIM: To help the children see in all the beauty of nature at Springtime, their Heavenly Father's love and care.

MATERIALS: Four jonquils or other Spring flowers (or pictures of flowers.) The Spring Poster.

HYMN BOOK: "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP

"On a Spring Day," No. 5.

2. *Superintendent.*

Repeats reverently the words of "On a Spring Day," then says, "Let us all rise and sing these words."

(Chord—all rise.)

3. HYMN

"On a Spring Day."

Superintendent: "Let us repeat our Bible verses that speak of God's beautiful world."

4. SCRIPTURE RECITATION

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

"For lo, the Winter is past;
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of the singing of birds has come."

"He hath made everything beautiful."

5. *Superintendent.*

"Some very beautiful things that the Heavenly Father has made, and that come to us in the Springtime, are the flowers. Will ——— (mentioning four children) come forward and hold some of the Spring flowers for us?"

(Superintendent gives one jonquil to each child. If real flowers can not be used, pictures of Spring flowers may be held.)

Children face Department, while superintendent repeats:

"In the Spring the flowers waken,
Waken from their Winter sleep;
They say to us, 'Look up dear children,
God forever watch doth keep.'

Spring again brings buds and blossoms,
Stored in nature's heart so deep;
So in us, God's life awakens,
He forever watch doth keep.

For to children as to blossoms,
God gives life to grow more sweet;
And we know that in His kingdom,
He forever watch doth keep." [12]

Superintendent. "Let us sing our hymn that speaks of God's beautiful world."

6. HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 20

(Chord—after singing—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us speak our thanks to the Heavenly Father. Let us pray."

7. PRAYER

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the beautiful world in which we live.

"We are glad for the flowers, the birds, the sky and the bright sunshine. We thank Thee for Thy loving care that has made the world so beautiful.

"We thank Thee for the Springtime, and the beauty we see everywhere. Help us to be Thy grateful, loving children, as we sing, 'Father We Thank Thee,'" (refrain from No. 15.)

Superintendent. "Let us all rise and sing a hymn to the Heavenly Father about His beautiful world."

[12] From Primary and Junior Hymnal. By permission of Clayton F. Summy Co.

8. HYMN

"Fair are the Meadows," No. 41.
(Chord—all rise and sing.)
(Chord—all seated.)
Superintendent: "The Heavenly Father gives us so many Springtime gifts, let us bring our gifts to Him at this time."

9. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Offertory music, No. 29.
Children sing with bowed heads, No. 30.
Superintendent. "Spring is here. We are all happy —children and grown people—birds and insects and flowers. Everything that lives is happy. I have a story for you this morning. It is about a caterpillar. It will tell us how happy he was one Spring morning."

10. THE STORY:

"THE CATERPILLAR'S JOURNEY"

Once upon a time a lazy brown caterpillar started out on a journey. You would not have thought it a very long journey—just across the road and under the fence to the roots of the big maple tree, where he thought he would spin himself a hammock and hide away from the cold winds and snow which he knew would soon come. But the caterpillar thought it a long way and full of dangers. Some careless boy or girl might step on him, or an automobile or wagon might run over him. He trembled when he thought of it, but one bright day he started out. He could see a tall, white daisy on the other side of the road, and he thought he would stop and talk to her when he reached her.

It took him a long time to cross the road, and when he came to the place where he had seen the daisy there was no daisy there, only a tall brown stalk. "Where is she?" he asked a robin who was watching him with

bright eyes from a bough above. The robin answered in a little song that said, "She is dead, she is dead." "Oh," said the caterpillar, "I wanted to talk to her." The robin went on singing in a soft little voice, and soon the caterpillar knew he was saying, "She shall live again, she shall live again." But the caterpillar did not understand, and he felt very sad as he went on.

Soon he began to look about him and think what he would say to the friendly green grass which had nodded to him on the other side of the road. When he looked, he saw there was no friendly green grass; everything was dry and hard. "Where is the friendly green grass?" he said to himself. "Where can it have gone?" And then came a little whisper in his ear which he knew was the wind. "It is dead, it is dead." The poor little caterpillar felt very lonesome, and he put his head close to the ground as he cried out, "Oh! the friendly green grass, I shall miss it so." Then he heard the wind whisper again very softly this time, "It shall live again, it shall live again." But the little brown caterpillar did not understand, and he felt very sad as he went on.

By and by he came to the roots of the big maple tree and as he looked up he saw the branches were all brown and bare and the lovely green leaves were all gone.

"Oh, dear," he said to himself, "the big maple tree is dead, too." But he heard again the soft voice of the wind as it said, "It shall live again, it shall live again." But the caterpillar did not understand, and he felt very sad as he began to spin his silken hammock. "They are dead," he kept saying to himself, and every time he said it, he heard the soft wind answer, "They shall live again, they shall live again." But the caterpillar did not understand, and he was sad.

Soon the hammock was all done, and the caterpillar was ready for his long nap. He did not hear the two children who came and looked at the hammock and said to each other, "The caterpillar is dead, too," but the wind heard them, and answered softly, though they did not

understand, "He shall live again, he shall live again. Wait and see."

The cold wind and snow came, and stayed all winter, the birds were all away in the southland, and the wind no longer whispered in a soft voice, but whistled shrilly through the trees and shook the branches roughly.

By and by the sun grew warm and bright and the snow melted away, and Spring came to all the earth. The little seeds began to grow in the warm earth and soon everything was a lovely green again. Something began to happen in the silken hammock where the caterpillar went to sleep. Slowly it came open and something moved inside. The soft wind saw it, and said, "The caterpillar is alive again." And then out of the silken hammock came a queer wet thing, not at all like the brown caterpillar. The sun shone warmly upon it, and soon it was resting there on the trunk of the big maple tree, a great beautiful butterfly, with wings of black and gold.

The butterfly did not understand, and he said to the robin who looked down at him from the branch above, "I thought I was a caterpillar." But the robin answered as before in a little song, "Now you are living again."

Then Mr. Caterpillar Butterfly thought of his friends, the lovely white daisy, the friendly green grass, and the big maple tree, and he remembered the soft voices that said, "They shall live again. And he looked around him and there they were, every one of them, more beautiful than ever in the warm sunlight.

He did not understand, and nobody understands, but we know the soft voices were true when they said, "They shall live again, they shall live again." [13]

(After the story)

Prayer: "Our Father, we thank You for the beautiful Springtime, when everything lives again. Amen."

[13] Used with permission of The Christian Board of Education.

April: Fourth Sunday.

THEME: "God's Beautiful World at Springtime."

AIM: "To associate in the children's minds the beauty and joy of Springtime, with their Heavenly Father's love and care.

MATERIALS: Some Spring flowers, or a growing plant; the Spring poster; the Birthday calendar and stars; a nature picture, preferably colored. See "Primary Picture Set," "International Closely Graded Lessons," Grade I.

HYMN BOOKS: "First Book in Hymns and Worship." "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP

"On a Spring Day," No. 5.

2. *Superintendent.* "Let us all rise and sing this worship hymn."

3. "ON A SPRING DAY," NO. 5

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

4. *Superintendent.* "We read in our Bible that in the beginning God created (that is, made) the heavens and the earth.

"And God saw everything that He had made and behold it was very good."

(For)

"He hath made everything beautiful."

Superintendent. "I have a picture to show you of God's world. I want you to look at it carefully and tell me some of the things you see in it that the Heavenly Father has made to make the world beautiful."

(Superintendent shows picture, preferably colored. Children will note here blue sky, green grass, flowers, etc. If preferred, children may name these "gifts" without the use of a picture.)

Superintendent. "We are glad that we live in such a beautiful world. Let us sing our praise to the Heavenly Father."

Hymn No. 20, "For the Beauty of the Earth."

(Chord—children seated.)

Superintendent. "Let us speak our thanks at this time. Let us pray."

5. PRAYER

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this world in which we live.

"We are glad for the flowers, the birds, the blue sky, and the bright sunshine. We thank Thee for Thy loving care that has made this world so beautiful.

"We thank Thee for the Springtime, and the beauty we see everywhere."

(Prayer response, sing softly No. 10, "Songs for Little People." "Hear us Thank Thee Kindest Friend.")

Superintendent. "We have just thanked the Heavenly Father for His gifts to us. Let us now bring our gifts, to show our love and thanks."

6. THE OFFERING—AND BIRTHDAY SERVICE

Offertory Music, No. 29.

Children sing No. 30.

The birthday children come forward to receive recognition. Stars are placed on the birthday calendar, the children give their birthday gift money, (if this be the custom) after which the superintendent will pray:

"Our Father we thank You for ———" (mentioning the children by name) then all repeat after the superintendent:

"Bless these children (or 'this dear child') with Thy love.
Shine upon them from above.
For to-day and all the year,
Keep them safe, our Father dear. Amen."

(Children may then be given birthday cards, if this be the custom.)

Superintendent. "Let us look at our picture of God's world once more. (Shows picture silently for a moment.) I have a story to tell you this morning about the Springtime. It is called 'The Little Road That Wanted to Be Beautiful.'"

7. THE STORY:

"THE ROAD THAT WANTED TO BE BEAUTIFUL"

Once upon a time there was a little narrow road that went from the country to the town, and all Winter long and ever since it had been made the fall before, it had been brown and plain to look at. It was quite crooked, for no one has taken any pains to cut it straight. It was full of stones and all day long the feet of great horses and heavy rumbling wheels passed over it, and cut it, and left their deep marks in its brown earth. Oh, how much the little brown road *longed* to be beautiful. And it longed for it so much that the Spring heard of its wish.

Sleeping deep down on either side of the road were crowds and crowds of purple violets. The Spring called to the sleeping violets and said:

"Wake, wake, for the brown road's sake.
Rise and bloom and grow,
To make a little road bright and gay,
Is why the wild flowers blow."

The sleeping violets heard the voice of the Spring, and they stretched their roots and pushed their green leaves up through the earth, and put on their purple hats. There were so many of the violets beside the road, that they made a purple path on either side of the road. Oh, it was very, very beautiful.

Then the Spring spoke to the wild plum trees that grew beside the road, so bare and grey and she said:

"Wake, wake, for the brown road's sake,
Burst your buds and blow;
To make a little road bright and gay,
Is why the wild trees grow."

The bare branches of the wild plum tree heard the voice of the Spring, and they burst their buds and covered themselves with a great many white blossoms. The wind took some of the blossoms and spread them on the little brown road. Oh, it was still more beautiful.

Then the Spring spoke to all the grey cocoons that hung to the little bushes and the old boughs close by, and she said:

"Wake, wake, for the brown road's sake,
Leave your cradles low;
To make the little road bright and gay,
Fly merrily to and fro.

Then all the grey cocoons heard the voice of the Spring, and the grubs that had slept inside all Winter woke and grew and burst open their grey coverings and came out butterflies. Yellow and white and gold, the butterflies flew to and fro above the little brown road. And the road was almost as beautiful as it could possibly be.

But last of all the Spring called to a little bird, that had the sweetest voice of any in the world, and she said:

"Sing, sing, for the brown road's sake,
When the setting sun is low;
The song that a little road loves to hear,
And only the thrushes know.

So the wood thrush heard the voice of Spring. Every afternoon, when the sun was just about to set, the wood thrush came out of the woods and sat on the very tip top branch of one of the wild plum trees and sang a song that was like a flute and a violin and a sweet singer's

voice all melted into one bird song. Then the road was so beautiful with the Spring, that it could not have been any prettier. And it was very happy.[14]

Superintendent (after story). "Let us sing one of our praise songs to the Heavenly Father to thank Him for making the world so beautiful."

8. HYMN, NO. 41

"Fair are the Meadows."

(Chord—children rise and sing.)

(Chord—children seated.)

[14] From "Out Door Story Book," by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey. Copyrighted, The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission.

CHAPTER VIII

MAY

THEME: "Children's Happy Homes."

Three-fourths of the child's time is presumably spent in his home. It may be an humble home, lacking many of the luxuries and even comforts of life, yet to the child it is his *home* and far more than he can realise means love, care, happiness, and nurture for his developing life.

The May programs, therefore, seek to centre the children's thoughts upon their homes, helping them to realise that a happy home is one of God's best gifts. They would also impress upon the children that the love and care of father and mother place certain obligations upon them as obedience, loving appreciation and helpfulness; all this in turn making the home a happy and a beautiful place to live in.

Emphasis is placed upon the father in the home equally with the mother, and no mother's day program as such is given. For while it is true that the mother is often the one seemingly most interested in the child, especially during the first years, the father's hard and unselfish work to help maintain the home should never be overlooked and he, together with the mother, has an equal claim upon the child's affection and the church school will do well to bring this truth to the child's attention.

The suggested pictures and objects will do much to enrich the programs, and can be secured by any superintendent in whole or in part with careful search.

If the time allotted to worship will not permit the use of all material given, the program should be shortened. For it is a safe rule to follow in every case, *shorten* rather than *hurry* the program.

May: First Sunday.

THEME: "Our Fathers and Mothers."

AIM: To help the children appreciate the love and care of their fathers and mothers, and show their love by obedience and helpfulness.

MATERIALS: Several pictures of homes of different types—homes typical of those the children live in, secured from magazines, postcards, etc. Pictures devoid of details; also pictures of a father. mother, brother, sister, and baby, secured from magazines or other sources.

HYMN BOOKS: "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP

"Father in Heaven," No. 1.

Superintendent. "Let us all bow our heads and sing this prayer to the Heavenly Father."

2. "FATHER IN HEAVEN," No. 1

Superintendent. "I have some pictures to show you this morning. Look at them carefully and tell me what they are pictures of." (Be sure to select pictures of *houses only,* otherwise confusion will result.)

(Superintendent shows each picture in turn. Children will probably respond that they are "houses.")

Superintendent. "Yes, these are all pictures of houses. We call them 'homes.' If I asked you to tell me who lived in these homes, whom would you mention first?"

(Bring out children's responses. If youngest children should mention their pets, do not be disturbed. "Father and mother" will surely be named.)

"Yes, *families* live in these homes to-day. We are to think of some very dear to us who live in these homes; our fathers and mothers. We could not have any homes without our fathers and mothers. They work hard for us every day to keep us happy and well.

Let us sing our thanks to the Heavenly Father for father and mother and other good gifts that belong to us every day.

3. "CAN A LITTLE CHILD LIKE ME," No. 52

(Chord—all rise and sing.)
(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "Some of our youngest children have a song to sing us this morning about a dear family."

(Five children come forward and face Department. The first holds picture of a father, the second of a mother, the third a brother, the fourth a sister, and the fifth a baby. Each child holds its picture up as the words are sung. Hymn 153, "The Finger Family.")

Superintendent. "Our Bible speaks to us of father and mother. It tells us how we may help them in return for all they do for us. Let us all repeat these verses."

4. SCRIPTURE RECITATION

(Either together or after the superintendent.)

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor Thy father and mother . . . that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Superintendent. "When Jesus was a little boy, He was always happy in His home, and obeyed and honored His father and mother. It makes Him very happy when He sees us obey and honor our fathers and mothers. Let us sing a prayer to Jesus."

5. "LOVE'S LESSON"

Two verses, No. 26.
(All sing with bowed heads.)

Superintendent. "Let us bring our offering gifts at this time and show our love for Jesus."

6. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Offertory Music, No. 89.

Superintendent. "We are remembering our fathers and mothers to-day. ——— (mention some child) has learned something to say to us at this time."

(Child comes forward and recites.)

7. "MY MOTHER AND DADDY DEAR"

"There's some one who loves me every day,
Whatever I do, or whatever I say,
They're always glad when I'm happy and gay;
My Mother and Daddy dear.

"They begin to work while I'm still in bed,
'Cause I have to be cared for and clothed and fed;
It takes lots of time, that's what I've heard;
Of Mother and Daddy dear.

"They take me to places I want to go,
Only sometimes you see they have to say 'No,'
(They say it's because they love me so)
My Mother and Daddy dear.

"So I'll try to be good as good can be,
And always obey so they'll surely see,
How I love them; for they can count on *me;*
My Mother and Daddy dear."

Superintendent. "I have a story for you this morning about a little girl, and what happened to her that made her see how very much she loved her father and mother. It is the story of 'Emily's Home.' "

8. THE STORY:

"EMILY'S HOME"

Emily was eight years old. "Nine my next birthday," she would have said if you had asked her. Mother called

her "chief helper," and Emily was very proud to hear her tell what a big help she was. Mother was not strong, and there were Bob and Daddy and baby sister, besides Emily to share her love and care.

But to-day something was wrong. Emily's face did not wear its usual happy smile. "I hate doing dishes," she thought, "the same old thing day after day." Just then Mother came into the kitchen with baby sister in her arms. "Nearly through, little daughter?" she said; then seeing Emily's unhappy face, she added: "Daddy is coming home early to-night; we'll take a picnic supper and go for a nice ride, so *no dishes* to-night."

But Emily did not look any happier. "I'm ashamed to have people see us all crowded in that *old Ford,*" she said. "When's Daddy going to buy a *real* car?"

"Why, Emily," said Mother, "think of all the good times we've had in our little Ford. Daddy was just saying it seems like one of the family, and it does."

That night Mother came up to have a last word with Bob and Emily as she always did at bedtime. Some way it wouldn't have been a "good night" to either of them without a last word with Mother. She sat down for an extra minute at Emily's little white bed. "We had a happy time didn't we, dear, even if we were crowded together in our little car?"

"Yes, Mother," said Emily, "but you don't know how tired I get being poor, and wearing my old clothes, and riding in a Ford, and doing the dishes." Mother was very still for a minute, then she said, "I had a note from Aunt Lucile to-day. She is very anxious for you to come visit them in Boston, before they go away for the summer. She says Lillian has a cold and is lonesome. Would you like to go?" "Oh, Mother, will you let me?" said Emily. "I'd *love* to visit Aunt Lucille. She and Lillian wear such lovely clothes, and Aunt Lucille's car is so big and grand looking. She has a *real* chauffeur, too!"

Mother smiled quietly. "I've talked it over with Daddy, and we are both willing. Aunt Lucille says she

LISTENING TO THE STORY "JESUS OBEYS HIS PARENTS"
Told by Second Grade boy.

will stop for you on Wednesday." "That will be just two days to wait," said Emily. "Oh, mother, how *dear* of you to let me go."

Emily could scarcely sleep for thinking of the lovely time coming. And when Wednesday came she felt very grown-up and important as she climbed into Aunt Lucille's big limousine and waved good-bye to Mother. To be sure, it was a little lonesome. "Aunt Lucille couldn't come herself," said the note, and Lillian's cold was no better. Would Emily mind driving in alone?"

Emily had never ridden all alone in such a big car before. How long the ride to Boston was. Once before she had gone with Daddy in the Ford, but that was different. Daddy and she talked about everything they saw. Emily was afraid to say a word to the big solemn chauffeur.

When she got to Aunt Lucille's home, the chauffeur carried her bag up the steps and rang the bell. A maid opened the door. Emily felt almost afraid to walk in. Where could Aunt Lucille be? Then she saw Lillian in a beautiful white frock. "Come in, Emily," said Lillian. "I'm *so* glad to see you. I've got such a cold I haven't been out in a week. Mother's out. There's nobody home," she added. "Lena will take you to your room."

And such a great big room as it was! Emily thought of her own tiny room at home, with its little white bed. She wondered if she could ever go to sleep, all alone, in such a big one as this.

That night Lillian and Emily had dinner all by themselves. "Don't Aunt Lucille and Uncle Robert come home to dinner?" asked Emily. "Oh, yes, sometimes," said Lillian, "but often they're out. Let's go up to the library and listen to the radio."

How strange it all seemed. No dishes to wash, no Mother, no Daddy, no Bob, no baby sister—just Lillian and she alone in the library. How long the evening seemed. "Let's go to bed," said Lillian. "Lena will help you undress."

After Lena had said good night, Emily thought, "Oh, how I wish I might see Mother, just *once*." She fell asleep, thinking, "It will be different to-morrow. Aunt Lucille and Uncle Robert will be here." But to-morrow *wasn't* any different! Uncle Robert had breakfast very early and was off before Emily got downstairs. Aunt Lucille was tired and didn't come down at all. When Emily did see her she was all dressed to go out. "So glad you came, Emily," she said. "Lillian has been so lonesome since she's been sick." How strange it all seemed. A little girl sick and no mother home. Why it was 'most as bad as having no mother at all.

"Be good little girls," said Aunt Lucille. "James will take you for a ride this afternoon if it stays warm and pleasant." Emily began to feel more and more homesick. She looked at all Lillian's beautiful things; she rode with her in the big car; she listened to the radio; she let Lena wait on her; but, oh, how she wanted Mother; she wanted Daddy and Bob and the baby. She wanted her very own little bed and Mother to come kiss her good-night.

The very next afternoon, Lillian was looking idly out the window. "There's one of those awful Fords, stopping right before our house," she said. "Come here, Emily, and see how funny it looks." Emily looked—then she gave a shout of joy. "Oh, it's Daddy, it's Daddy, he's come to take me home," and she flew down the stairs. In another minute a wildly happy little girl was in Daddy's arms. "Oh, Daddy," she said, "I could hardly wait for you to come." "Do you want to go home with me to-day?" said Daddy. "Mother asked me to stop and see how you were. We thought you would stay another week." "Oh, no, no, no," said Emily. "I want to go home with you to-day." "I'll stop for you in an hour," said Daddy.

"You see, it's this way, Lillian," said Emily. "My home's different from yours. I'm Mother's chief helper, and she misses me lots when I'm not there. I do the

dishes for her when she's busy and take baby sister out sometimes, and I always set the table. There's only Bob and baby sister and Daddy left when I go away. I know Mother wants me to come home."

"Don't you hate to do all that work?" said Lillian. "Oh, no," said Emily, "I love to." "Well, I shouldn't like to ride in an old Ford anyway," said Lillian. "I do," said Emily, "when Daddy drives us."

(After the story, superintendent waits quietly for a moment then says, "What should we ever do without our dear fathers and mothers who do so much to make us happy? Shall we thank the Heavenly Father for giving us our fathers and mothers?")

9. PRAYER

(Repeated after superintendent.)

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for our fathers and mothers who love us and care for us. Help us to obey and help them every day, and show how much we love them. Amen."

May: Second Sunday.

THEME: "Happy Homes Through Obedience."

AIM: To help the children feel, that one way they can help make home happy is by obedience, and create in them a stronger determination to obey at all times.

MATERIALS: Pictures "Told to Wait," in "Primary Picture Set," Grade 1, "International Closely Graded Lessons," or similar pictures, teaching obedience. Picture of the boy Jesus in the temple. "Primary Picture Set," "International Closely Graded Lessons," Grade 2, or Hoffman's "Christ and the Doctors," 10c. size, No. 800, Perry Picture Co. Picture of home used previous Sunday.

HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP

"Father in Heaven," No. 1.

Superintendent. "Let us all bow our heads and sing our prayer to the Heavenly Father."

2. "FATHER IN HEAVEN," NO. 1

(All sing with bowed heads.)

Superintendent (holding up picture of home used previous Sunday). "You will remember this picture we looked at last Sunday. Will you tell me what other name we have for this house? Asks some child who will give correct answer 'home.') Yes, a home, and whom do we find living in homes?"

Superintendent (gathers up children's responses and continues). "Last Sunday we talked about our fathers and mothers and things we could do to make them happy. One way was to obey them. Let us repeat our Bible verses that speak about obeying."

3. SCRIPTURE RECITATION

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor Thy father and mother . . . that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Superintendent. "We love to think of Jesus in his home with his father and mother, brothers and sisters. ——— (naming some child) has some verses to repeat to us about the 'Little Lord Jesus in His Home.' "

(Child comes forward and repeats.)

4. "THE PLAYMATE OF NAZARETH"

"Little Lord Jesus, who used to play
With the children of Nazareth ev'ry day,
You used to be laughing and cheerful too,
So make me a happy child, Lord, like you.

"You used to help your dear father work,
Teach my little fingers not to shirk;
As you used to play when the work was done,
Be near and watch over my games and fun.

"Little Lord Jesus, who played, like me,
On the shore by the lake in Galilee,
Take care of a little child, I pray,
And help me remember you ev'ry day.[15]

(If preferred these words may be sung by child, class, or Department, or the words may be read by superintendent or some teacher.)

(See "First Book in Hymns and Worship." Thomas, No. 115.)

Superintendent. "Let us sing a Prayer to Jesus that asks Him to help us remember and love Him every day."

5. HYMN

"Love's Lesson," No. 26, two verses.

Superintendent. "Let us show love for Jesus by bringing to Him our gifts at this time."

6. OFFERING SERVICE

Offertory Music and hymn, No. 89.

Superintendent. "We have spoken about Jesus and how He obeyed. ——— (mentioning some child) will tell us a story about Jesus and how He obeyed His father and mother one time when it was hard to do so."

(Child comes forward and retells the story he has previously told his teacher. If preferred, this story may be told by the superintendent or one of the teachers.)

7. THE STORY:

"JESUS OBEYING HIS FATHER AND MOTHER"

When Jesus was a boy He lived in a town called Nazareth. Every day Jesus went to school and learned

[15] Mary Youngs. Used by permission of the *New York Times.*

His lessons with the other boys and girls. After school they would play games and have good times together.

Jesus was very happy in His home. He loved best to have His mother tell Him Bible stories. Sometimes she would tell Him about the great beautiful temple in Jerusalem. Always she promised Him that some day when He got old enough He should go with her to the wonderful service there.

One evening Jesus was going to bed. "Jesus," said Mary, "to-morrow Joseph and I are going to the great temple. We want to take you with us, for you are old enough now to go so far from home." How happy Jesus was to hear this. That night He could hardly sleep. The sun was hardly up before He was dressed all ready to start.

Soon Mary and Joseph were ready, too, and they started off. Many people were going to Jerusalem at this time. Some were riding on camels, some on donkeys, some on horses, while many walked.

It was Springtime. The sun shone warm and bright, the birds sang, lovely flowers blossomed along the roadside. Everybody was very happy.

When night came, the people slept in tents they carried with them. Some rolled themselves in blankets and slept on the ground. When morning came, they would travel on toward Jerusalem and at last they saw the beautiful city. They saw its great walls; they saw the forts where the soldiers were, they saw the palace where the king lived, but best of all they saw their loved temple, pure white, with its roof covered with gold. And when the people saw their temple, they were so happy they began to shout and sing. They sang all the rest of the way into the city.

All this made Jesus very happy. He walked through the streets of Jerusalem looking at all the wonderful things, and always ahead of Him shone the gold roof of the temple.

Once they reached the temple, Jesus followed Mary and Joseph through the great brass and silver doors into the temple itself. They found many people there. There was wonderful music. Many were at prayer. Jesus, too, prayed to His Heavenly Father.

When evening came, Joseph and Mary started for home with their friends. They thought Jesus was with them. They travelled a whole day before they missed Him. Then, how frightened they were. They could not find Jesus; what if some harm should come to Him, all alone. They left their friends and hurried back to Jerusalem. They asked everyone they met if they had seen Jesus; but no one had. All the way back to the temple they went. And at last they found Him. He was talking with some teachers about the Bible stories He knew. All at once He looked up and saw His mother. "Son," said Mary, "we have been so sad. We have looked everywhere for You. Please come home with us right away."

Jesus did not want to go home then. He wanted to stay longer and talk with those teachers. But when He saw how sad His mother looked, He did not wait one minute. He said good-bye to the teachers. He went straight to His mother and Joseph and went home to Nazareth with them. And there He lived many years, always a loving son, and obedient to all His parents asked Him to do.

Superintendent (after story shows the picture of Jesus in the temple with the doctors, giving opportunity for all to see it.)

(Do not choose too small a picture for group or Department.) After all have seen the picture, superintendent may say, "How hard it was for Jesus to leave the great temple, and go right home with His father and mother. It showed how much He loved them. It is sometimes hard to obey like Jesus did. Shall we ask the Heavenly Father to help us?"

Prayer (Repeated after superintendent with bowed heads.)

"Our dear Heavenly Father, please help us to be like Jesus and obey our fathers and mothers every day. Amen."

May: Third Sunday.

THEME: "Happy Homes through Loving Appreciation."

AIM: To help the children realise the many things that are done for them in their homes and to show their loving appreciation.

MATERIALS: Pictures of mothers and fathers showing loving care and service for their children—secured from magazines or other sources.

HYMN BOOK. "Songs for Little People."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Sunday Morning"—No. 157.

2. *Superintendent*—(repeats reverently)

"This is God's house and He is here to-day. He hears each song of praise and listens when we pray." [16]

Let us all sing these words.

All sing "This is God's House," No. 8.

Superintendent. "Let us all repeat the prayer that Jesus taught us—called the Lord's prayer, after which we will sing a prayer song to Jesus.

3. THE LORD'S PRAYER

Prayer Response (With heads still bowed "Love's Lesson," No. 26, two verses) Amen.

Superintendent. "Let us show love for Jesus at this time, and bring to Him our gifts."

[16] From "Songs for Little People," Danielson and Conant. Copyright, 1915, by Congregational Sunday School and Pub. Society.

4. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Offertory Music and song No. 89

Superintendent. "For two Sundays we have been talking about our homes. I want to show you some pictures this morning, of fathers and mothers. Let us look at them, and see what they are doing for their children." (Several pictures may be shown—suited to the children and local conditions.) Superintendent may then secure responses from the children as to what their parents do for them—asking those whose parents are particularly thoughtful and careful of them. Superintendent may help the responses by saying—"I saw John and his father this past week—they were having such a good time together"—or "I saw Ruth's mother buying her a new dress." "Mary, what does your mother do for you?" Let the responses be quiet and orderly, and not consume too much time. After which the superintendent may say, "Let us sing our thanks to the Heavenly Father, for all He gives us in our homes."

5. HYMN "Can a Little Child Like Me," No. 52.

(Chord—all rise and sing)

(Chord—all seated)

Superintendent. "—— (naming some child) has some verses to recite to us about some children who all said they loved their mother. Listen carefully and decide which one *you* think really showed they loved their mother best." (Child comes forward and recites.)

6. "I LOVE YOU, MOTHER"

(If preferred these verses may be read by the superintendent or some teacher.)

"I love you, mother," said little John;
Then, forgetting his work, his cap went on,
And he was off to the garden swing,
And she had the wood and water to bring.

"I love you, mother," said rosy Nell;
"I love you more than tongue can tell."
Then she teased and pouted half the day,
Till her mother was glad when she went to play.

"I love you, mother," said little Nan;
"To-day I'll help you all I can;
How glad I am school doesn't keep!"
Then she rocked the baby till it went to sleep.

And stepping softly she brought the broom,
And swept the floor and tidied the room:
Busy and happy all day was she,
Helpful and happy as child could be.

"I love you, mother," again they said,
Three little children going to bed;
How do you think that mother guessed
Which of them really loved her best?

(Anonymous)

After recitation, superintendent pauses a moment then asks "Which child really loved mother best?" ("Nan.") "Why do you think so?" ("Because she helped.")

"Yes, they all said they loved mother, but Nan showed that she did. Now I have a story to tell you about a boy and his mother. The boy's name was Bradley."

7. THE STORY:

"WHAT BRADLEY OWED"

There was once a boy whose name was Bradley. They called him Tiddley Winks when he was young, because he was such a tiny little thing. When he was about eight years old, he had already got into the bad habit of thinking of everything as worth so much money. He wanted to know the price of everything he saw, and if it had not

cost a great deal it did not seem to him to be of any value at all.

Now this was rather foolish of him, for there are a great many things that money can't buy, which don't have any price at all. Money can not buy the very best things in the world, as you will soon see.

One morning when Bradley came down to breakfast he put on his mother's plate a little piece of paper, neatly folded. His mother opened it, and what do you think was on it? She could hardly believe it, but this is what Bradley had written:

Mother owes Bradley—

For running errands	25 cents
For being good	10 cents
For taking music lessons	15 cents
Extras	5 cents
Total that mother owes Bradley	55 cents

His mother smiled when she read that, but she did not say anything. When lunch came she put the bill on Bradley's plate with the fifty-five cents. Bradley's eyes fairly danced when he saw the money, and he thought his business ability had been quickly rewarded. All at once he saw there was another piece of paper beside his plate neatly folded, just like the first one. And when he opened it what do you think he saw? Why, it was a bill from his mother! This is the way it read:

Bradley owes mother—

For being good to him	nothing
For nursing him through his long illness with scarlet fever	nothing
For clothes and shoes and gloves and playthings	nothing
For all his meals and his beautiful room	nothing
Total that Bradley owes mother	nothing

Now what do you think that boy did when he read those words? Do you think he put the fifty-five cents in his pocket and went off whistling? I am sure you know better than that. No—the tears came into Bradley's eyes, and he put his arms around his mother's neck, and he placed his hand with the fifty-five cents in her hand, and said, "Take the money all back, mother, and just let me love you and do things for you for nothing." [17]

Superintendent (after story). "Let us ask the Heavenly Father to bless our fathers and mothers who do so much for us."

Prayer. "Dear Heavenly Father we thank You for our fathers and mothers, who do so much for us. Please bless them and take care of them every day. Amen."

May: Fourth Sunday.

THEME: "Happy Homes for All."

AIM: To help the children feel the loving care of the Heavenly Father in providing homes suited to His whole creation.

MATERIALS: 3 or 4 pictures of homes used previously—Pictures of other homes—see Primary Miss. Picture Set. 12 pictures 30 cents, Pilgrim Press, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., or secure pictures from Missionary Educational Movement, 150 Fifth Ave., New York; or pictures from magazines or other sources; 3 or 4 objects as a sea shell, a bird's nest, a cocoon, or other objects representing homes of God's creatures; the birthday calendar and stars.

HYMN BOOK: "Songs for Little People."

I. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Sunday Morning," No. 157

Superintendent. "Let us all sing our thanks to the Heavenly Father at this time. He has kept us safe all

[17] (Adapted from Children's Story Sermons, by H. T. Kerr, used by permission of The Fleming H. Revell Co.)

through the night. He has given us this new day, with its beautiful morning light."

2. "MORNING HYMN," No. 2

(All sing with bowed heads)

Superintendent. "We have talked about the great King David. We remember he wrote beautiful hymns called Psalms. They are in our Bible. I will read one at this time."

3. PSALM 95 : 1-6

Superintendent. "Let us do as our Psalm says. Let us worship Jehovah our Heavenly Father by singing our praise to Him at this time."

4. "PRAISE HIM" No. 6, 3 verses

(Chord—all rise and sing)

(Chord—all seated)

(If program is too long, omit psalm and hymn.)

Superintendent. "Another way of thanking our Heavenly Father, is to bring to Him our gifts for others. Let us bring our offerings at this time."

5. THE OFFERING AND BIRTHDAY SERVICE.

Offertory Music and Prayer No. 89.

For Birthday Service see April 4th Sunday.

6. A TALK ABOUT HOMES.

Superintendent (shows picture of some home, used previous Sunday). "This picture will remind you of something very dear to us, something we have been talking about all this month—what is it?" (Mentioning some child sure to give correct answer.) "Yes, *our homes.*"

"All last night you were safe asleep in your home. This morning you each had breakfast with father and mother in your home. And when our church school is

ended, you will each one of you go back to your good home. How sad it would be for us if the Heavenly Father had not given to each of us our good home, where we can always be safe and happy with father and mother.

"The Heavenly Father has given many different kinds of homes to His children all over the world. They are not like our homes, but they are just right for the children who live in them. We will look at some of these homes."

(Superintendent may here show 3 or 4 pictures or objects, as a Japanese house, an Igloo, an Indian tepee, etc.)

After time has been allowed for the careful examination of these homes, the superintendent may say, "But I have other homes to show you that the Heavenly Father has given because for every living creature the Heavenly Father has planned a home." (Superintendent here shows a bird's nest (or picture of one), a sea shell, a cocoon, a picture of the sea, etc.; 3 or 4 objects or pictures will suffice.)

After these have been looked at, the superintendent may say:

"So we see even the birds of the air, the fish in the sea, the animals of the woods and fields, all have their homes that the Heavenly Father has given them.

"I have a story for you this morning that talks about these homes."

(If for any reason the programme must be shortened, omit the showing of pictures and objects in talk preceding the story, or omit the story, closing with prayer immediately following the talk.)

7. THE STORY:

"WHOSE HOME IS BEST"

Once upon a time there was a little toad who thought his own home was the best home in the world. Such a funny home it was too! But God had given it to him,

and of course it was just the right home for the little toad. Where do you think it was? No, it wasn't a nest in a tree. It was just a little hollow under a stone where it was all dark and damp and cool as could be. The little toad liked it so much that he thought everybody and everything else in the world must wish for such a home as his. So one day when a robin came flying by he called to the robin, and said he, "Please wait a minute, dear robin, I want to ask you something."

So the robin perched overhead on a bough and chirped politely, "well, sir, what is it?"

Said the little toad,

"Wouldn't you like to live like me,
Under a stone where it's cool as can be?"

But the robin sang,

"It may suit you, but it wouldn't suit me.
I love my nest in the spreading tree.
That's the dear home that God gives me."

Then he flew away. Pretty soon the little toad hopped along near a brook, and he spied a tiny fish swimming in the water, so he asked the fish,

"Wouldn't you like to live like me,
Under a stone where it's cool as can be?"

But the fish said,

"It may suit you, but it wouldn't suit me,
God made the rivers, the lakes, the sea,
Full of clear, bright water for fishes like me."

Then he swam swiftly away. Then a squirrel came whisking by and the little toad asked him,

"Wouldn't you like to live like me,
Under a stone where it's cool as can be?"

But the squirrel twinkled his little bright eyes, and said he,

"It may suit you, but it wouldn't suit me.
I like my nest in the hollow tree;
That's the snug home that God gives me."

Well, the little toad was more and more puzzled when along came a happy little boy whistling a merry tune.

"I'll ask him," said the toad. "He ought to know what home is best." So he called to the boy,

"Wouldn't you like to live like me,
Under a stone where it's cool as can be?"

How the little boy laughed!

" 'O no,' said he, 'that might suit you, but it wouldn't suit me.
My father and mother and I, we three,
Have the dearest home in the world, you see;
But mother tells me that God knows best,
For the fishes the sea, for the robin his nest,
For the squirrel his hole in the hollow tree,
And your stone for you where it's cool as can be.' "

So the little toad hopped back happily under his stone where it was damp and dark and cool as could be.[18]

Superintendent. "Shall we thank the Heavenly Father who has given us all our homes?"

Prayer.—(Repeated after superintendent.)

"Dear Father we thank You for giving the birds, the animals and everything that lives, their homes. We are so glad for our safe and good homes. Hear us as we sing—"

(All sing softly "Father We Thank Thee" refrain from No. 52.)

[18] (Found in Course One of the Christian Nurture Series, published by the Young Churchman Company, Milwaukee. Used by permission.)

CHAPTER IX

JUNE

THEME: "Children in other Homes"

If world friendship is to become a reality for the coming generation it lies with the teachers to plant the seeds for this friendship in children's minds to-day.

With this thought in mind the June programs are planned to give opportunity for each superintendent to present the children's work of her own denomination and in which the local church has a part. She should secure literature from the Home and Foreign Boards, and select the work that will make a real appeal to children of this age, arousing their interest and eagerness to help.

Care should be taken to select just one phase of work for each Sunday. A small Sunday School in the West, a school in the South, a Japanese Kindergarten, a Chinese Hospital, where children are made well and learn about Jesus, an African Mission School—any of these subjects will be meaningful to Primary children, they will add greatly to the interest, as will homes and living conditions shown.

The offerings taken during this month should all go to help their church do this work. The amount given may be small, but the *value* of helping children feel they may have a part in this work can not be overestimated.

Two posters will be found most helpful, and the children will delight to make them, with their teacher's help. One may represent "Jesus and the World Children." A picture of Jesus is pasted in centre of poster, surrounded by children from different countries, cut by children from missionary magazines or other sources. The words "Suf-

fer little children to come unto me" should be lettered on poster.

The second poster will be made up of the different pictures illustrating the phases of denominational work presented.

Again, Jesus' picture may be placed in the centre, to help the children realise for whom this work is done and with what object.

If thought best, one poster may be made of each phase of work presented, different classes doing the work. These posters may be made during the week, or in some hand work period during the church school session. They should be considered gifts from the children and become a part of the permanent equipment of the Department.

June: First Sunday.

THEME: "What Our Church is Doing for ——"

AIM: To create a feeling of world friendship. To help the children feel they have a part in helping their church in their work for children in the homeland or elsewhere.

MATERIALS: Pictures and stories from the Denominational Board, relative to work with children in the homeland, or over seas. The picture of Jesus used previously. Pictures to illustrate the hymn "World Children."

HYMN BOOK. "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

Song Card, "The Whisper Song."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "This is God's House," No. 1

2. *Superintendent.* (Repeats reverently.) "'This is God's House and He is here to-day; He hears each song of praise and listens when we pray.' Let us all sing these words." [19]

[19] (From "Songs for Little People," Danielson and Conant. Copyright, 1915. Congregational Sunday School and Pub. Society.)

3. HYMN. "This is God's House," No. 1

Superintendent. "Let us repeat the verse that tells us how we should enter God's House."

4. SCRIPTURE RECITATION

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise."

Superintendent. "Let us all rise and sing our praise to the Heavenly Father."

5. HYMN NO. 15 "Can a Little Child Like Me," 3 verses.

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.)

Superintendent. "We have just thanked the Heavenly Father for the great gift of His son. What is the name of God's dear son?" ("Jesus.")

"Let us look at Jesus' picture."

"Jesus said something very beautiful about little children one day. Shall we repeat those words?" (Children repeat) "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not."

Superintendent. "Does Jesus love *all* the children of the world?" "Yes, no matter where they live, Jesus loves them and He wants them to *know* he loves them. I will show you some pictures of God's children and we will sing about them."

Hymn 103, "The World Children."

(*Superintendent*—shows picture chosen to illustrate verse—after which children sing the verse. If hymn is unfamiliar, superintendent may recite the words and show the pictures.

THE WORLD CHILDREN.

1. "The cunning papoose in the wigwam that lives,
Whose life is so happy and free,
Is my Indian brother, and Jesus loves him
Just as he loves you and me.

2. "The Eskimo babies are wrapped all in fur;
They live in the north country,
Where cold winds blow, and Jesus loves them,
Just as he loves you and me."

3. "The little Jap babies, with shining, dark eyes,
Live on a green isle in the sea;
Too many to count, and Jesus loves them,
Just as he loves you and me."

4. "The pretty brown babies who roll in the sand,
In a country far over the sea,
Are my African brothers, and Jesus loves them,
Just as he loves you and me."

5. "And all the dear babies, wherever they grow,
So cunning, so precious, so wee,
Are God's darling children, and Jesus loves them,
Just as he loves you and me." [20]

Superintendent. "What were Jesus' last words before He went back to Heaven?"

(Children—all recite) "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation."

Superintendent. "We have learned there are many children living in God's beautiful world, who do not know that Jesus loves them. They do not have church schools to go to as we do. There are no teachers to tell them of Jesus, for the older people do not know about Him either.

"Our church is helping some of these children. They live —— (Here mention country or part of United States). I will tell you a story about these children."

7. (*Superintendent*—here tells some simple story of children in mission school or hospital, who are being

[20] (Copyright, Lamer and Barton, Publishing Agents. Used by permission.)

POSTER

Prepared by a class of Second Grade pupils under the direction of their teacher and presented by them, in the offering service.

helped by —— denomination. If possible shows picture of children or workers.)

Superintendent (after story). "There is one way we can help the work our church is doing. We can bring our gifts of money on Sunday to help. Shall we do this? Let us bring our gifts at this time."

8. THE OFFERING SERVICE.

Offertory Music. "Whisper Song," played very softly while offering is taken.

THE PRAYER.

"For dear little children in homes far away,
We bring Thee our offering dear Father to-day.
Keep them safe now and always in Thy loving care.
For Jesus sake, hear now dear Father our prayer.
Amen."

June: Second Sunday.

THEME: "Children in ——"

AIM: The same as for previous Sunday.

MATERIALS: Poster "Jesus and the Children" made and presented by class. Denominational literature and pictures, relative to children's work.

HYMN BOOK: "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

Song Card, "Whisper Song."

The Church Hymnal.

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP. "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." Church Hymnal

2. *Superintendent.* "Miss —— (mentioning pianist) has just played one of our church hymns for us. It says,

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God Almighty.
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee."

"Let us worship God our Heavenly Father (this morning) with song."

3. HYMN, "Holy, Holy, Holy," No. 4

Superintendent. "Let us speak our thanks to the Heavenly Father. Let us all pray."

4. PRAYER. "Our dear Heavenly Father we thank and praise Thee this morning, for the beautiful world in which we live. We thank Thee for our homes, for our fathers and mothers and all dear to us. We thank Thee for our teachers and our church school where we learn of God our Heavenly Father, and of Jesus our loving friend and helper. Please bless all the children of the world everywhere. Amen."

5. *Superintendent.* "—— (mentioning some class) has a gift for us this morning; will they please come forward and present it at this time?"

(Class or children come forward and present the poster of "Jesus and the World Children" they have made. They hold it up before the Department and all sing.)

6. HYMN NO. 26, "Jesus and the Children"

(Chord—all rise and sing.)

(Chord—all seated.

("Jesus Loves Me" may be substituted, if this hymn is unfamiliar.)

7. *Superintendent.* "Last Sunday we spoke of the work our church was doing to help the children in —— (mentioning place or country). We gave our gifts last Sunday to help our church do this work.

"This morning I have another story for you about some children living in —— (mentioning country or location). Our church is sending money to help these children, too."

(Superintendent here gives simple talk of work done by denomination (which local church helps) illustrated with pictures if possible.)

After the talk, superintendent may say, "Last Sunday we decided we would like to help our church with the

work they were doing for children. Let us bring our offerings again this morning to do our part to help."

8. THE OFFERING SERVICE. (See previous Sunday)

June: Third Sunday.

THEME: "Work our Church is doing for ——"

AIM: The same used previously.

MATERIALS: Denominational literature and pictures relative to children's work. Poster, "Jesus and the Children."

HYMN BOOKS: "First Book in Hymns and Worship."

Song Card. "Whisper Song."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." Church Hymnal.

Superintendent (repeats reverently). "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee."

"Let us all sing our hymn of praise to the Heavenly Father, 'Holy, Holy, Holy.'"

2. HYMN No. 4, "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Superintendent. "King David, we have learned, wrote many beautiful songs of praise in our Bible. I will read one, now—after which we will sing, "Oh Come and Let Us Worship."

3. PSALM 95:1-6

Song Response, "Oh, Come and Let Us Worship" No. 3.

Superintendent. "We worship God our Heavenly Father when we thank Him for all His good gifts. Will you tell me some of the Heavenly Father's good gifts at this time that we may thank Him for them?"

(Children respond by naming God's good gifts especially those that come in Summer. If they should fail to mention Jesus, the superintendent may remind them by asking them to repeat the verse that tells of God's best

gift, and showing them the picture of Jesus. She will then gather up the children's responses and lead in a prayer which they will repeat after her.)

4. THE PRAYER.

(Prayer response, "Father, We Thank Thee," sung very softly.)

Superintendent. "We have just thanked the Heavenly Father for His best gift to the world—his dear Son, Jesus. Let us look at our poster of Jesus and the children."

(Superintendent shows poster and comments on Jesus surrounded by so many children, from all over the world.)

"Do all the children of the world know about Jesus? Are we doing anything to help them to know? Yes, we have been learning about some of our work with children far away. We found out our church was helping these children and we decided we wanted to help too, so we have been giving all our gift money these last two Sundays.

"To-day I have still another story for you."

(Superintendent will tell here simply of some particular work the denomination is doing for children, if possible using pictures to illustrate the talk—as she has done the two previous Sundays.)

5. THE TALK

6. THE OFFERING SERVICE

(See previous Sunday.)

June: Fourth Sunday.

THEME: "Jesus and the World Children."

AIM: To help the children feel that Jesus loves all the children of the world: to increase their desire to help children everywhere to know and love Jesus.

MATERIALS: The picture of Jesus used previously,

attractively framed, mounted on fresh cardboard or Dennison crêpe paper. The children's poster of "Jesus and the Children." Picture, "Christ Blessing Little Children." Picture, "Hope of the World." Copping, price 75 cents. 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. Poster illustrating the June talks.

HYMN BOOKS: "Songs for Little People." "A First Book in Hymns and Worship."

1. THE CALL TO WORSHIP, "Jesus loves me," No. 18, "Songs for Little People."

Superintendent. "As we look around our room (or Department) this morning we see the pictures of Jesus we have learned to love. We know that Jesus loves us. Let us sing of His love while —— (mentioning some child) holds Jesus' picture before us all."

(Child comes forward, takes picture and holds it before the Department)

2. HYMN "Jesus Loves Me"

(Chord—all rise and sing 1 verse.)

Superintendent. "Let us thank our Heavenly Father for Jesus." (All repeat with bowed heads.)

3. "FOR JESUS BORN A LITTLE CHILD"

(See March—First Sunday)

(Chord—all seated)

Superintendent. "We have sung of the love of Jesus. We know that Jesus loves us every one. Will you tell me this. Is there a child anywhere in the whole wide world, whom Jesus does not love?" ("No.")

"No, Jesus loves *all* the children of the world, wherever they may be. We have a hymn to sing, about the world children and Jesus. I will ask (naming two children), to come forward and hold our poster, 'Jesus and the Children' while we sing our hymn."

4. HYMN "The World Children"

(The word "children" may be substituted for "babies" in this hymn if better suited to the poster pictures. The words may be read to the children, if hymn is unfamiliar. See June First Sunday.)

5. A TALK. "We have sung of our Indian children—We have sung of the children of Japan, of China and of Africa. We know that Jesus loves all the children of the world.

"We have talked about some of these children. We have found out there are many, many children, who do not know that Jesus loves them. They do not know about the Heavenly Father. We have been glad to know that our church was helping these children to learn about Jesus. We have looked at some of the pictures that told us of this work. Some of our children have taken these pictures and made us a poster. Will they bring their gift forward at this time?"

(Children or some class here bring forward the poster they have made under their teacher's direction, illustrating the talks that have been given them this month. The superintendent here thanks the children for their gift and briefly recalls interesting facts concerning the work for children, which has been spoken of all through the month.)

Let us bring our gifts to help these children learn about Jesus who loves them.

6. THE OFFERING SERVICE

Offertory Music—"The Manger Hymn," No. 60, "Songs for Little People."

Offertory Prayer.

"Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay.
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And help us to please Thee and willingly share".
(From Martin Luther's Cradle Hymn—altered)

(The Birthday Service for June which would come at this time had best be held either on another Sunday or at another time during the hour.)

7. THE PICTURE—"The Hope of the World."

Superintendent. "I have a beautiful picture to show you at this time" (Superintendent here shows "The Hope of the World," by Copping). The beauty of the picture is brought out through questioning and comments by the superintendent. The children will delight to come forward and point out the children of the different countries they see in the picture. After the children have enjoyed the picture the following prayer may be repeated.

"Dear Heavenly Father we thank You for Jesus. We are glad that He loves all the children of the world everywhere."

Song Response, "Yes Jesus loves *us*."

(Sung softly with bowed heads. If this picture cannot be procured, close the worship after the offertory prayer.)

The following stories are added as an aid to the superintendent in case denominational missionary stories are difficult to secure. In connection with the use of these stories, however, denominational information suited to the children should always be given.

"WHAT THE BLIND PRINCESS DID"

In the far away land of India, lived a dear little girl named Begam. Begam means "Princess," and perhaps you will think with such a name she was a very fortunate little girl. But something was the matter with little Begam. She was blind!

Then one day something beautiful happened to Begam. She went to the Mission hospital. Here there was a kind missionary doctor who had come way from America to make blind people see. Many boys and girls were in the Mission hospital. Some of them were blind too.

Begam's eyes were the first to be "made," as she called it. After many weeks she became well again, and the other children too. When they left the hospital, they went to live in a home specially for boys and girls without homes. Here they began to go to school and learn to read and write the stories about Jesus who had gone about this earth making the blind people see and the lame walk. Begam could not do enough to show how glad she was that her "eyes were made." Every morning she carried water from the well near the hospital so that the sick people who like herself had come to be healed of blindness or other diseases, might have water to drink. She did not feel she could ever do enough to show how glad she was that she could see and go to school.

One day the house-mother told them about the sorrowful time the blind boys and girls in China had, how some of them never could see and how there was not enough money to take all those who wanted to come into the school. Here blind folks could learn how to take care of themselves and not have to beg for their food and a place to sleep. Begam knew just how they must feel. "Oh!" she said that night, "just think if there had not been room for us here! I think it would be nice to help them!"

"There isn't anything we can give," put in Sugra. "We're too poor." "We haven't any way to earn money, either," objected Rocha. "I'm too little to do anything," added Nur.

Begam looked dismayed. "But you want to help, don't you?" she asked. They nodded. "Then we shall find a way. We must all think how."

Sunday came around and still no one had an idea how to earn money to help the blind children in China. Not even the house-mother could think of a single thing they could do. They were most disappointed. Yet their disappointment almost disappeared in the pleasure of their Sunday treat—a pudding of rice and raisins. Begam sat very quiet as she ate the pudding, as if thinking very hard. She ate slowly, enjoying every single raisin on her

plate. They were so delicious! At last she set down her dish saying slowly, for it was hard, "I know what we can do to help those boys and girls in China." Everybody listened. "We can—go without—our pudding—on Sunday."

The children looked puzzled. "Go without our pudding?" they repeated.

"Yes," she answered, "if we can't do anything, we can do without, and then the house-mother will give us the money for it and we can send that!"

The children did not respond at once. They liked raisin pudding very, very much.

"Think how happy we are," Begam reminded them.

"It would be fun to help them," suggested Rocha a little doubtfully. "And we can see," added Gulam. "Even I am not too little to give up," said Nur. "Yes, yes!" all finally exclaimed, and with that they trooped to the house-mother.

"We want to do something for the blind children in China. We have been thinking about it and want to give up our treat on Sunday—our pudding," Begam explained.

The tears came into the house-mother's eyes. "No, dear little people, you don't know what you say. It's the only treat you have," she said.

"That's just it," urged Begam, and Rocha added: "We haven't anything else to give, you see," while Nur, smiling, climbed up into the house-mother's lap and said proudly, "I'm not too little to help!"

Finally, seeing how eager they were, the house-mother agreed, "You may do it every other Sunday," she said. They were glad and for that year those Indian boys and girls went without their "treat" every other Sunday. At the end of the year they had saved ten dollars to send to China to their little friends "with our love, so that they too, may love Jesus and be as happy as we."

(Adapted with permission from a story of the same name in collection "They Love Him Too" copyrighted by Missionary Education Movement.)

"Big Brother's Ambition"

Once there lived a little Chinese boy. He was called Four, because he was the fourth little boy born in the family. But his little brothers and sisters all called him Big Brother.

One day Big Brother and his little sister Orchid were sitting out doors together. "Orchid," he said, "I intend to be President of China when I grow up. Everybody will wait on me and do exactly what I tell them. I shall be very, very rich of course, and have everything I wish. I shall have lots of soldiers. They will do everything I say. If they don't, I'll just look at them, so"; and he scowled so terribly that Orchid looked frightened.

Just then they heard their Cousin Wang call "Four" and Big Brother ran to see what was wanted. But he did not come back and by and by they were very much surprised and quite frightened too, when Cousin Wang came in carrying Big Brother. His new trousers were torn and stained, and one leg hung limply down.

"Don't cry," said Big Brother, opening his eyes and trying to smile.

Cousin Wang laid him down on his hard brick bed and went away to get a man from another village to come and put some medicine on his leg. "He fell off my cart when he was riding with me," Cousin Wang explained, "and the wheel went over his leg."

Poor Big Brother lay on the brick bed for two days. The strange looking medicine put on his leg did not make it one single bit better. He did not cry, but he felt like it sometimes when he thought that he couldn't be president now, because no one with a lame leg could be a president. But one day he heard some wonderful news. There was a hospital only twenty miles away where a missionary doctor made blind people see and lame people walk. Big Brother's father and mother said, "We will take him to be made well." So they made the bullock cart ready and drove Big Brother to the Mission hospital.

So that afternoon the foreign doctors took Big Brother into a queer room, all glass, even glass in the roof. Before they did anything, they all shut their eyes and put down their heads and stopped talking—all but one man, the foreign doctor, who seemed to talk to somebody Big Brother could not see. The only words he could understand were, "Make this little boy well and give him strength."

The next thing Big Brother knew he was lying on a soft white bed, in a quiet room. There beside him sat his mother, smiling to see that he was awake.

"Now you will get well, Big Brother," she said.

"Oh," he smiled, "now I can be president!" and went off to sleep.

Next time he woke up it was light. He could see all about his room. On the wall hung a large colored picture. There was a man in it dressed in white, and in front of him were some people all holding out their hands to him. One man was leaning on a crutch. "Oh," thought Big Brother, "he is lame, just like me." Another had a little boy with him who was showing him the way because he was blind. The man's face was very, very kind.

Big Brother grew so interested that as soon as the nurse came he forgot that she was strange and called out, "Oh, nurse, who is that man in the picture?"

The nurse sat down on the bed by Big Brother and told him the story of Jesus. Big Brother had never heard it before. "Tell me some more," he said, when the nurse stopped. "By and by," she answered.

All through the long weeks Big Brother was never tired of looking at the wonderful picture or hearing how Jesus gave all His time to helping people be better. "Oh," Big Brother said, "I do love Him and I shall tell Apricot and Orchid and Cousin Wang and everybody about it as soon as ever I get home." And he resolved to be as much like Him as he could.

It was a very happy day when Big Brother left the

hospital. How glad he was to be home! Orchid and Apricot danced about him, while he showed the little book that told all about Jesus, which he had learned to read at the hospital, and ran a little just to show them he could.

"Oh, now you can be president!" laughed Orchid. Why, so he could. His leg was quite well. He had been so much interested in Jesus that he had forgotten that now he could be president. Wasn't it jolly! That night after the others were asleep as they lay on their warm brick bed, Big Brother began to think about being president, and having everything he wanted. "Jesus did not," he thought, "and I want to be like Jesus. Nobody waited on Him. He helped everybody else. It is just as different as can be, this plan to be a president. And I have always planned to be president!" he sighed, and tried to go to sleep.

Next morning while he helped his mother as the boys at the hospital did, he told about the hospital where everybody helped one another, and how the big doctor spent all his time going about caring for sick people just as Jesus would do.

"Aren't you glad you went there!" exclaimed Apricot.

"Just think if you hadn't gone there and been cured, you could never grow up to be a great man and be president!" put in Orchid.

And Big Brother thought to himself, though he did not say it out loud, "If the hospital people had not loved Jesus enough to come to China, there would never have been any hospital here, and my leg would never have been better and I would never have known He loved me." This decided Big Brother. He would try to do as Jesus did too. He swallowed hard; that lump would stick in his throat. He did wish to be a great man. "I," he began slowly, "am not going to be a president, mother." Mother and Orchid were too surprised to speak. "I am going to be like Jesus as much as I can. He helped folks, you know, and waited on them."

"You won't be a great man, you—you'll be just like a servant," gasped Apricot.

"But perhaps," as a big idea came to him, "I'll be a doctor instead, and cure sick folks like the hospital people," Four said. And when he grew up that's just what he was—a kind good doctor that made people well. And that's better than being President of China.

(Adapted with permission from a story of the same name in collection "They Love Him Too" copyrighted by Missionary Education Movement.)

"Afraid of the Dark"

Once there was a little black boy named Sego. Sego lived far, far away in the country we call Africa.

Sego had never heard about Jesus. He did not know of the Heavenly Father's loving care. His mother did not know about the Heavenly Father either. She taught her little boy to believe in bad spirits. She said, "Watch out, Sego, or the bad spirits will hurt you." So Sego was afraid.

But one day Sego went to the Mission School. The teacher had come from America to teach little boys and girls about Jesus and the Heavenly Father's loving care. She said, "Sego, you need not fear. There are no bad spirits to harm you. The Heavenly Father will always take care of you." Then Sego was happy.

One night little sister cried and cried. "The spirits are troubling her to show they need food!" said the mother. "We will have the witch doctor." Yet, though she tried all sorts of curious remedies, none of them did any good.

"There's a man at the settlement who can cure sick babies," Sego whispered to his mother one night. "I've seen him."

His mother looked up and Sego saw that her eyes were full of tears. "We can't carry her there to-night," she said. "And perhaps in the morning it will be too late!"

Sego ate his supper very slowly. That doctor man would come to the kraal if he knew. Sego went to the door and looked out. It was very, very dark. Only a few stars twinkled overhead. No, he couldn't go in the dark. There were all those bad spirits. For the moment, you see, he had quite forgotten about Jesus being there in the dark with him. He shook his head. He couldn't go. He lay down on his mat, shut his eyes firmly and tried to sleep. He could not do that either. You see, he kept hearing little sister cry. He would ask his father to go.

He finally got up and went over to the hut where his father sat with the men. Timidly he told him about the doctor who would come if he knew about it, and make little sister well. "Wouldn't he send somebody to the settlement to tell him?" It was no use. "Nobody in this kraal knows Jesus loves children but me," he said. "He loves little sister." He walked back to the hut, then started for the gateway of the kraal. "There's nobody to help but me," he cried. "And I am afraid!"

At the gate he paused. It was so black outside. He remembered what they said at school. Jesus loved him, he need not be afraid. Jesus loved him, and there wasn't anything like a bad spirit to harm him. A twig snapped suddenly. He jumped back. It seemed as if he just could not step through the gateway into the dark. Then he heard little sister cry, little sister whom Jesus loved. Summoning up all his courage he set his teeth. "I will do it," he said, and ran down the pathway before he could change his mind. By and by the moon shone through the trees and made queer shapes of every bush. Everything frightened him. He kept saying to himself, "Jesus is here, Jesus will take care of me," and sang a little to keep up his courage. At last he saw lights ahead and knew he had reached the settlement.

Gladly the doctor went back with him to cure little sister. In a few days little sister would be well again, they said.

"Now they'll know Jesus loves children," he said.

"Sego, what made you so brave last night when you ran for the doctor? Weren't you afraid of the dark?" asked Samba and Jwili, his two friends, next day.

"Yes, at first I was afraid, but I kept remembering that Jesus was there and loved us, and after that I wasn't afraid at all."

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THE END

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